WORLD SOCCER

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F.C. BARCELONA

Back row left to right: Mora, Rife, Albaladejo, Neeskens, Costas, Migueli.
Front: Rexach, Corominas, Cruyff, Marcial, Heredia.

KEVIN KEEGAN Liverpool

World SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

Easy for Holland, anger in Wales, Czechs shock USSR, Germany sail home

WEST GERMANY, the current holders, Yugoslavia, Holland and Czechoslovakia will contest the final stages of the European Championship in Yugoslavia this month. The draw for the semi finals is: Czechoslovakia v. Holland; Yugoslavia v. West Germany.

West Germany had a comfortable passage against Spain in the quarter finals. After drawing 1-1 in Madrid the Germans dominated the second tie, winning 2-0 with goals from Hoeness and Tippmoeller, who was making his debut.

Holland won the first leg of their encounter with Belgium 5-0 and the return in Brussels was a mere formality. But the Dutch did enough to suggest that a repeat of the 1974 World Cup final is likely with Holland meeting West Germany. Johnny Rep and Johan Cruyff scored Holland's two goals while Vander Eckyen opened the scoring for Belgium.

Czechoslovakia, who eliminated England in the qualifying rounds, moved on to the semi finals with a 4-2 aggregate victory over the USSR. The second leg produced a 2-2 draw but the Czech hero was goalkeeper Ivo Viktor, who made some magnificent saves in the opening spell.

Moder scored the first goal for Czechoslovakia, Buryak equalised but Moder laid on a second for Gallis in the 84th minute. Blokhin equalised three minutes later.

British hopes, valiantly carried through to the quarter finals by Wales, were ultimately destroyed in Cardiff where Yugoslavia secured a 1-1 draw following their 2-0 win in Belgrade. The match was a sour, bad-tempered affair which was almost abandoned in the 65th minute by East German referee Rudi Gloeckner.

Welsh fans had thrown beer cans on to the field and one spectator even attacked Yugoslavia goalkeeper Enver Maric. The referee required police protection at the end of the game and a UEFA inquiry is expected.

Yugoslavia went ahead with a controversial penalty by Katalinski in the 20th minute; Wales equalised through Evans seven minutes before the interval.

ENGLAND BEATEN

ENGLAND LOST 1-0 to Brazil in the American Bi-Centennial tournament before a crowd of over 30,000 in Los Angeles. Roberto scored the winning goal for Brazil in the 89th minute.

England, who had disappointed in the British International Championship, gave a much better performance in Los Angeles and were unlucky to concede a scrambled goal with less than a minute left for play.

But though England's performance was their most encouraging for some time the individual and collective faults of the players came through in stark contrast against the sublime skills of the Brazilians. Lack of basic ball control and accuracy in passing, whether over 10 or 50 yards, need to be rectified.

Italy beat Team America 4-0.

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European Cup Final... Hampden Park, Glasgow...

BAYERN'S TELLING

IF EVER the value of sheer class was perfectly demonstrated, we saw it as Bayern's 7½ men held at bay the honest endeavours of St-Etienne in the first half at Hampden.

That's the enigma of Bayern.

And it's led to so many people writing them off time and again.

In Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Müller and Sepp Maier they have players in a class of their own. Yet alongside these are boys such as Udo Horsmann, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Bernd Dürnberger whom you might worry sometimes about playing in the reserves.

Add to this the fact that for most of the first half Uli Hoeness was anonymous and you have my basis for talking about the 7½ men.

It would be facile to say Dettmar Cramer ought to demand some big-money reinforcements. Bayern are Beckenbauer, Müller and Maier. They are the personalities, and it's proved well nigh impossible for outsiders to settle in.

Jupp Kapellmann cost a lot of money from Köln in 1973, yet he only signalled his "arrival" in Munich with his fine performance against Leeds in Paris last year. And very soon he could be away to France.

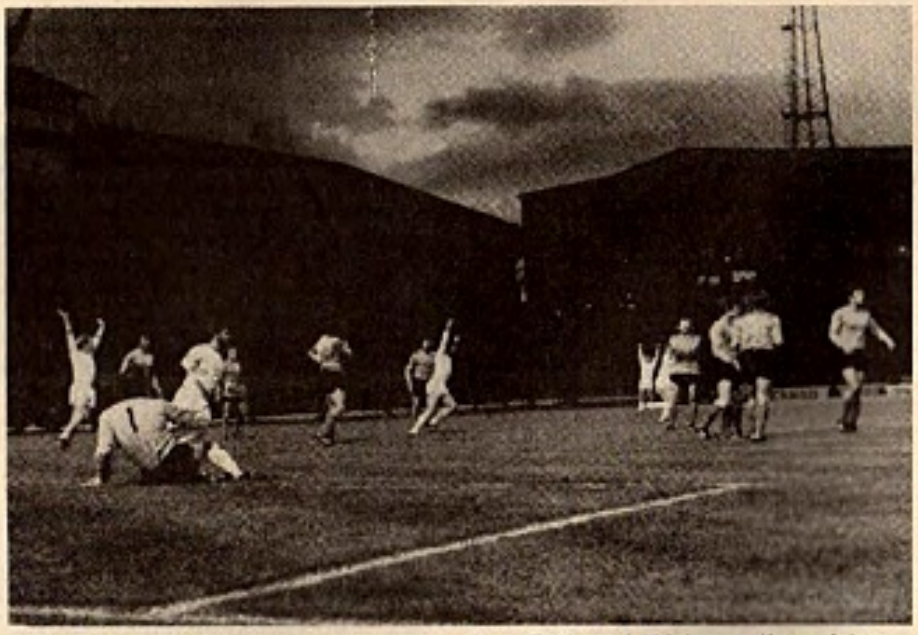
Another man who did well in last year's final was Klaus Wunder. Another costly signing, he came from MSV expected to solve Bayern's left-wing problem. But he couldn't adapt. At Duisburg he had been *the* star. At Bayern he was expected to take a subsidiary role and the adjustment was beyond him. Little over a year after signing, he moved on to Hannover.

So Bayern seem doomed — unable to strengthen the team unless one of their own youngsters turns up trumps. In the meantime the sheer class of Beckenbauer & Co will be put under more and more pressure to cover more and more holes.

Even though St-Etienne hit the bar twice in the first half they never gave me any undue sense of alarm for Bayern's title. After all, good sound team though they are, they had only one man capable of living in the sphere as Beckenbauer and Müller . . . and half-fit Dominique Rocheteau was only pushed on in the last eight minutes.

Roby Herbin was asked about that afterwards. Could he have put Rocheteau on sooner?

Certainly the boy they're guardedly calling the "French Cruyff" gave Bayern some anxious moments. But, as Herbin hinted gently, Bayern didn't exactly treat Rocheteau with kid gloves when he did appear and anyway, if he'd gone on immediately after Bayern's goal that might have been criticised as a panic measure.



The Bayern Munich players celebrate the Franz Roth goal which gave them victory in the 1976 European Cup Final.

Also, of course, Christian Sarramagna, the man who originally stepped in for Rocheteau, had an outstanding first half and Patrick Revelli's dominance of Horsmann should have presented Maier with many more problems.

St-Etienne's first half approach was certainly more effective than that of Leeds last year. For one thing Leeds played without an orthodox winger until too late. So they were constrained to pump high balls down the middle for Joe Jordan. This tactic the French never used. They preferred to stretch Bayern sideways with the angled swinging centres of Sarramagna and, to vary that, were far more skilful and thus more adept in creating danger, with some neat interpassing deep into Bayern territory.

In short, the French played as well as they could. It was just that all in all, this wasn't good enough. In fact, you could say they were lucky still to be on terms at half-time. That so typical right wing break and "goal" of Muller's in the opening minutes was wrongly disallowed, I thought. Just like so many goal-poachers — and his placid reaction showed how he's learned to accept this — his very strength, his acceleration, had deceived the linesman into thinking he was past Oswaldo Piazza before Dürnberger played his pass.

The Final

2 mins: Dürnberger slips the ball through to Müller, breaking clear on the right. He clips his angled shot beyond Curkovic, but is pulled up, debatably, for offside.

5: Roth hits a shot from a free kick just wide.

10: The first corner of the match, won by St-Etienne.

15: Kapellmann claims a penalty after falling over the ball in the St-Etienne penalty area.

30: Bayern's best move so far, switching the ball swiftly across from left to right but Kapellmann's shot was blocked for a corner. This move ended a spell of French pressure.

34: Bathenay dribbles through the centre, steps across a couple of defenders and hits a fierce shot past Maier and against the bar. The rebound comes to Herve Revelli, unmarked on the penalty spot, but he heads tamely into Maier's hands.

35: Bayern reply: Dürnberger flicks a square pass which Hoeness should have done better with than belt inches wide of Curkovic's right hand post.

37: Roth drives for goal, the ball hits Curkovic's hands and bounces over him. The goalkeeper catches the ball on the very goal-line and pushes it away.

40: Another dangerous Sarramagna cross. This time Santini gets in a near post header and again the ball comes out off the bar.

41: Sarramagna takes a free kick out of the left and tries to surprise Maier by shooting for goal. The ball flies just behind the post.

May 12th, 1976... **report from Keir Radnedge**

CLASS IS FACTOR...

How they reached the final

BAYERN			ST-ETIENNE		
5/0	3-1	v Jeunesse d'Esch	2-0	3-1	v Copenhagen BK
0-1	2-0	v Malmo FF	2-0	2-1	v Glasgow Rangers
0-0	5-1	v Benfica	0-2	3-0	v Dynamo Kiev
1-1	2-0	v Real Madrid	1-0	0-0	

Final teams

BAYERN			ST-ETIENNE		
Sepp Maier	28-2-44	WG intl	Ivan Curkovic	15-3-44	Yug. intl
Johnny Hansen	14-11-53	Dnk intl	Pierre Repellini	27-10-50	
Franz Beckenbauer	11-9-45	WG intl	Oswaldo Piazza	6-4-47	Arg. intl
H-G. Schwarzenbeck	3-4-48	WG intl	Christian Lopez	15-3-53	Frh intl
Udo Horsmann	30-3-52		Gerard Janvion	21-8-53	Frh intl
Bernd Dürnberger	17-9-53	WG intl	Jean-Michel Larque*	8-9-47	Frh intl
Franz Roth	27-4-46	WG intl	Jacques Santini	25-4-52	
Jupp Kapellmann	19-12-49	WG intl	Dominique Bathenay	13-2-54	Frh intl
K-H. Rummenigge	25-9-55				
			Patrick Revelli	22-6-51	Frh intl
Uli Hoeness	5-1-52	WG intl	Herve Revelli	5-6-46	Frh intl
Gerd Müller	3-11-45	WG intl	Chr. Sarramagna	29-12-51	Frh intl
Goal: Roth 57.			Sub: (for Sarramagna, 83) Dominique Rocheteau	14-1-55	Frh intl

That, to my mind was Dürnberger's best pass of the night. He's been at Bayern a long time, mainly on the fringe of the first team, and has lately proved a useful attacking full back. But in midfield, though he can chase and harry, when it comes to going forward and being creative he's lost.

And that's another thing about Bayern . . . every top team you can think of have had a midfield player of outstanding ability, talent and class (that word again). Bayern have no-one in that category. So they have had to "make do" with Beckenbauer coming forward and Müller dropping back. But they do have two superb lieutenants in Kapellmann and Franz Roth.

Roth hit the winner against Rangers in the Cup-winners' Cup Final of 1967; he hit the first against Leeds last year, and he smashed in the short Beckenbauer free kick to win this one.

Over and above all that he run like a man rejuvenated. For the past few seasons Roth has seemed constantly on the verge of leaving Bayern. On the field at times he's looked slow and cumbersome. Yet at Hampden he caught a second wind. His chasing back and tackling was exemplary, his late sprints forward were astonishing and he was generally the first man around when there was any trouble, or whenever Bayern needed to form a defensive wall.

More, it was Roth who came to grips with Jean-Michel Larque, the French team's half-fit captain and midfield general. Larque hit some superb balls in the first half which lost nothing in comparison with Beckenbauer. In the second half Roth wiped him out.

And the irony of his goal won't be lost on the French. One of their great strengths is in the taking of free kicks around the penalty box. Yet they fell to one of the oldest dodges of all . . . the ball rolled square by Beckenbauer for Roth to wallop it in.

In that second half, as the French discipline began to slip, so Bayern demonstrated their disguised dominance and Hoeness threatened to tear St-Etienne apart, as he did Atletico Madrid in the 1974 replay.

Hoeness has had a traumatic past 12 months because of injury and nearly didn't make the final. He's lost some weight since Paris though and looked sharper than he was 18 months ago. But I wonder if he will ever truly fulfil the promise he showed back in 1972?

The truth is that Bayern have failed to replace Paul Breitner and some of their younger hopes, for one reason or another, have failed to come through. Sepp Weiss, was superb in outplaying Billy Bremner in Paris. But though he started in Bayern's first team this season he soon disappeared.

As for St-Etienne, first French team in the final since Reims in 1959, what consolation can they have?

Well, first, they did superbly to get this far and once there, with so much support in the 54,000 crowd, played as well as they could. Oswaldo Piazza was outstanding in defence and attack and Gerard Janvion did a good job early on on Hoeness.

It was a shame though that they couldn't make better use of Pierre Repellini, the other full back, who played on the right despite wearing No. 3. Repellini, sadly for St-Etienne, is left-footed and Bayern soon realised it.

Dominique Bathenay worked tirelessly and cleverly, coming through more than usual, while Jacques Santini held the defensive midfield role. But once Larque was extinguished, Bathenay lacked the touch-off passes of which to take advantage. With Revelli yet another prisoner for Georg Schwarzenbeck, it was all left to the wingers.

Later, St-Etienne had other things to think about and Beckenbauer moved free as Bayern maintained their remarkable record of being unbeaten in Cup Finals.

They've caught up with Ajax in winning the trophy three years in succession, but I can't say they are the *equals* of Ajax any other way. Ajax always seemed to be 110 per cent pure class and, as I said at the start, Bayern still have plenty of gaps . . .

run-down

48: Santini nips in on the right and Sarramagna wastes a good chance by heading the cross just wide.

56: Hoeness shows his pace for the first time to win a corner.

57: Piazza pushes over Müller 25 yards out in the inside left position. Beckenbauer rolls the ball into Roth's pass and Curkovic can only get his finger tips to the shot which brings the only goal of the game.

66: Beckenbauer just wide with a long range shot.

70: Müller and Curkovic are hurt in a collision on the edge of the six-yard box.

73: Santini shoots, the ball takes a deflection and Maier scrambles to save on the line.

80: Piazza tries to earn a penalty with a dive.

82: Hoeness breaks through on the right, could have squared for Müller but tries a shot. The ball hits Curkovic's legs and goes for a corner.

83: Rocheateau, not really recovered from groin strain suffered against PSV in the semi-final, substitutes for Sarramagna.

85: Rocheteau dribbles through to force a corner.

86: Herve Revelli heads into side net.

87: Beckenbauer clears away a Patrick Revelli cross from behind Maier in the six yard box.

88: Dramatic length-of-the-pitch run by Roth and Curkovic strains to grab his clever placed shot.

89: Brilliant dribble by Rocheteau, Patrick Revelli tries the shot and Maier saves on the line.

Eric Batty reports on the 1976 European Cup Winners Cup Final

West Ham of strikers

AFTER A season that began very brightly, with West Ham getting off to their best start in years, they topped the First Division table several times early on and even at Christmas were still amongst the front runners. To those unaware of their problems they appeared to be in with a chance of lifting the league title.

Then, as everyone knows, they hit a bad patch, not helped by the nagging injury that has afflicted their captain Billy Bonds all season and really limited his appearances in the second half of the campaign. The injury to Alan Taylor, who was their leading goal-getter when he began to spend most of his time on the treatment table, didn't help either, but as most of their regular followers will know, their good run served only to paper over their problems.

These are such that, in my opinion, their position as league leaders last season in the autumn was an indictment of English football and yet another indication that the overall standard of play has fallen in England.

To say that West Ham's true position is closer to where they finished up in the League table would also be unfair to the players and the club. They have problems, real problems, but there's nothing fundamentally wrong as they showed on rare occasions in the European Cup Winners Cup when they rose to the challenge to produce really fighting performances — particularly in the second, home legs against FC Den Haag and Eintracht Frankfurt and went on to reach the final.

Looking at their team analytically and with everyone fit, there is nothing wrong that one really good front player could not put right. Given two new players in the vital positions then West Ham could once more be a real power.

Goalkeeper Mervyn Day has had his lapses but overall remains a very promising goalkeeper and it would be grossly unfair to criticise him.

LIVERPOOL clinched an impressive "double" when they added the 1976 UEFA Cup to their ninth Football League championship title. Liverpool drew 1-1 with FC Bruges after winning the first leg at Anfield 3-2. Kevin Keegan scored for Liverpool in the second leg after Raoul Lambert had put Bruges ahead from the penalty spot. Full UEFA Cup round-up next month.

Midfield

The back four started the season like world-beaters with McDowell and Lampard amongst the soundest pair of backs in England — and certainly the best football playing pair. At the heart of the defence, Tommy Taylor at last showed signs of maturing to play really well while Kevin Lock (until his injury) was playing superbly.

With Keith Coleman a very adequate substitute at right back and McDowell able to do a good job anywhere in the back four, there are clearly no problems here. The absence of Bonds has obviously been felt in midfield, though in my view it is unfortunate for Pat Holland that although he has worked manfully when asked to play as a winger, his best position is in midfield.

However, with everyone fit, Paddon has had his off days but generally gives good value for money; Bonds at his best is like a poor man's Errol Flynn, always in the thick of the fray playing a real captain's part. All he needs apart from fitness is a sword and a Francis Drake outfit.

This leaves Trevor Brooking in midfield and he in my opinion is quite the best midfield player in England, an old fashioned inside forward of real class. With Pat Holland standing in for Bonds, still no problems.

At this point, West Ham have one of the best outfits in the country and with Ferguson, Coleman and Holland in reserve, strength in depth.

Now we come to the problems for it is clear that the front three, despite the goal-sense of Alan Taylor, have been a

need right type . . . and quickly!

real disappointment. It all looked so good when they signed Billy Jennings, Keith Robson and Alan Taylor.

After all, they won the FA Cup last season, and showing real character to rise to the big occasion they also fought their way through to Brussels.

But when one looks a little deeper, as much at the goal-scoring figures as at their play, it is clear that Robson and Jennings in particular have failed to improve as expected and I now fear they never will.

Against Eintracht Frankfurt, for example, it was midfield player Graham Paddon who got the vital first goal away. At home it was midfield player Brooking who took two fine goals to put West Ham in the final and despite flying about all over the place, Robson and Jennings failed to impress.

This is the conclusion that one comes to also, when watching them play. Playing football from the back, everything looks good until it reaches the front players and then it falls down.

Jennings and Robson might do very well WITH OTHER CLUBS, but they are not good enough for West Ham. This stood out like a sore thumb against Anderlecht despite Robson's goal, for playing away in a one match final, West Ham had no option but to play their natural game — playing football from the back.

Tight defence

Anderlecht played on this with a very tight defence, two wingers and no real centre forward, but all the mid-field players ready (and able) to make a break through the middle.

West Ham had most of the play, carrying the game to Anderlecht and playing some fine football in their build up. But only once did Jennings threaten, and Robson despite his goal, did nothing to upset or even worry the Anderlecht rearguard. It was left once more to the players coming from the back to break down the Anderlecht defence and packed as it was, there was little chance of that.

The penalty was probably the clincher — the kind of penalty (correctly given in my opinion) that would have passed un-noticed by 99% of English referees. Significantly it was back players Paddon, Bonds and Holland (the scorer) who got West Ham's first goal but pushing up as they did, and indeed were forced to do in the second half, they merely exposed their goal to the counter-attacking Belgians.

Jennings and Robson will not do while Alan Taylor would get by with a Hurst-type or Byrne-type that he could feed off. Ideally, West Ham must bring up their own players, but at the moment they have no reserve front players who can do it and the only alterrative is to go shopping again. It will be difficult to find the right type of striker(s) ... and expensive too. But it has to be done or the back four and the midfield, to say nothing of their supporters, will end up with broken hearts.

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LESLIE VERNON reviews the 1975-76 season in England

STRONGEST OR EXCITIN

IS THE English First Division the strongest league in the world, or does it merely provide exciting mediocrity week after week? The various answers to this basic question have provided a platform for argument between the protagonists on either side of the fence for years, and the past season has left the puzzle as intricate as ever. A year ago in this column, I said that a campaign which saw Derby and West Ham grab the major prizes can't be wholly bad. This time one can safely state that a season which put Liverpool and Southampton on a pedestal cannot be entirely good.

Yet, curiously, the past domestic season has been one of the best for years. Coaches have been striving hard to bring entertainment back into the game by throwing caution to the wind, and encouraging skill and individuality. Everything is relative, of course, and when one talks about the modern game, one must accept its concept and judge it on its own terms.

Critics like Mike Parkinson, who never watches a game, and my good friend, Eric Batty, who goes to the ground, but according to his own admission, leaves before the end, bored to tears, live in a cloud cuckoo land. They are still dreaming of the "good old days" when footballers enjoyed their work, didn't care too much about the result, and most important of all — allowed the other team to play!

Nowadays, be it Bayern Munich or Southport, the first commandment is: "Thou shalt stop them play." Not just the key-men or strikers, but every single man jack of them. Pressurise the goalkeeper when he is in possession, chase back if the opposing full-back has got the ball, don't give their midfielders alternative angles to part with the ball, stop their forwards at all cost, intimidate them, tackle them hard, bodycheck them if all else fails.

Not a very attractive set of instructions, but to ignore its existence or deny its validity is foolish self-deception. Within this unappetising framework, there are variations, but only of degree, not of principle. Beckenbauer, the most "elegant" player in the world, fouled Clarke when he had a clear run at goal, and stopped the ball with his hand as he crawled in the Wembley mud.

I do not approve of these defensive ploys, but would it be realistic to expect an English club defender to behave differently? Even under these depressing circumstances, provided there is a "strong" referee in the middle, modern football can offer spectacle and excitement as satisfying as its benevolent predecessor, which for the want of a better term, I would call "classical football".

In any case, the English game has always been too fast, too physical, too functional. It is still played at a ridiculously swift pace, but there is a great deal more thought, better overall ball control, and an attempt to develop and select constructive players.

As Jimmy Armfield so astutely pointed out, even the much criticised Liverpool use players like Case, Hall, Kennedy, Cormack and Callaghan in midfield — not a so-called "ball-winner" amongst them. Our amazingly consistent champions with a 1-2-2-1 "form-line" during the last four seasons, appear to be negative because they complete their attacking moves very quickly.

They do not linger around the opposing penalty box, probing for openings. A long ball to Toshack or a snapshot from a distance, and then they retreat in numbers in order to dominate the middle of the pitch. Few people gave credit to Liverpool for discarding the conventional, immobile centre-back. Both Thompson and Hughes are capable of coming forward with the ball and scoring goals.

But with all their admirable assets — and we mustn't forget the presence of the brilliant Kevin Keegan — there is a

Bobby Stokes (not pictured) scores the goal that gave Southampton victory in the FA Cup Final against Manchester United.

T IN THE WORLD
G MEDIOCRITY?

lack of charisma about Liverpool. If a football match would last only 70 minutes, they would have been fighting against relegation — their steamrolling methods, reminiscent of the Chinese water torture, usually bring about tangible rewards in the last 20 minutes.

Southampton's victory at Wembley was greeted with considerably less elation in the Press box than that of Sunderland three years earlier. One's deeply felt dislike of Leeds, and the emergence of Bob Stokoe as a Cup winning manager, was a heady mixture indeed. On the other hand, Manchester United, still struggling to re-establish themselves, were pitiful victims of a masterly tactical plan and their own inexperience.

The Saints' victory wasn't merely due to their obvious intention to mark the United wingers out of the game. No, McMenemy's scenario included time-wasting, fiddling around at set-pieces, and slowing down the pace of the action. Thus, they deprived Manchester of the "big-match" atmosphere which they thrive on, silenced the crowd, and casually transformed the game into a non-event.

The timing of the winning goal was exactly what Dr McMenemy ordered — it left no time for United to readjust to an unexpected setback. Brilliantly conceived, and executed with skill and the necessary dose of luck, Southampton emerged as the most unlikely winners of the Cup. But if Sammy McIlroy's header would have been an inch lower, and if Stokes would have been adjudged to be offside before the goal, we all might be putting a different interpretation on the very same game.

Our third trophy winners, League Cup holders, Manchester City, are fast becoming the most unpopular club in the country. The intention of playing good football, which was the hallmark of the Mercer-Allison era, gave way to petulance, strong-arm tactics and sheer nastiness. Chief culprits were Doyle and Donachie in the back, the ill-tempered Asa Hartford, and sadly, the very talented Dennis Tueart, who was involved in several unsavoury incidents.

Tony Book, their manager, who as a recent ex-colleague, is still too close to the players to be able to control them, must get a grip on the situation, otherwise this once admirable outfit will be unwelcomed visitors on opponents' grounds.

Alongside the buccaneering Manchester United, Queens Park Rangers also made a positive contribution to the season's largely satisfying output. They played without a recognised centre-forward, attempted to vary their rhythm and incorporated the "total football" concept into their game.

Celebration by the Liverpool players after they had clinched the Football League Championship with a 3-1 victory at Wolverhampton.

In an unfashionable area of West London, Dave Sexton created a style in line with his own philosophy, and bar a lapse at Norwich of all places, during the closing weeks of the season, would have won the title. It is a great pity that Rangers failed, although I do not think that the outcome of the championship race made an iota of difference as far as the future of our domestic game is concerned.

Although Rangers collected 38 home points out of a possible 42, and remained unbeaten, their own crowd didn't really appreciate their imaginative football. Their mediocre average attendances clearly shows that even the "floating voters" of London declined to make the trip to Loftus Road.

It seems that English crowds do not appreciate intelligence, do not like to watch patiently built-up attacks. Don Masson, who had a tremendous season, was barracked every time he misplaced a pass, the others were constantly urged "to get on with it" as soon as they put their foot on the ball.

Our public demands constant action, no matter how futile and primitive it is. As long as everybody is running around like March hares, the fans are happy. Who is then going to have the courage to copy Q.P.R. — whether they won the league or not? Who is going to "educate" the public?

Bobby Charlton, who couldn't find a good word to say on T.V. about the superb football of Anderlecht? (What was the average attendance of Preston, when you were the manager there Bobby?)

The standard of refereeing is another aspect of our football which depresses me. The advantage rule has been constantly misinterpreted, and in the interests of allowing the game to flow, offenders are not penalised. If after a foul, the ball bounces towards the ill-treated player's team-mate, the referee usually lets play go on. Where is the advantage? Isn't it better to have a free-kick than to try to control an awkward ball under pressure?

Discipline is still very lax on our grounds. Players are permitted to get away with punch-ups, they bawl at officials, kick the ball away to gain time at free-kicks, etc. These habits die hard, but the referees must clamp down on them as foreign officials do in international competitions.

To sum-up the first-part of this short requiem for a football season — we have witnessed some progress. The re-emergence of wingers, the more fluent concept of the role of the central defenders, and the attempt to play without a statue-like centre-forward or target-man, have been the most positive features.

I found the entertainment level of the vast majority of games, if not exhilarating, at least satisfactory.

The St. Etienne team before the 1976 European Cup Final in Glasgow.

Well done St. Etienne

ANDRE DUCLOS reports from FRANCE

NOTHING MUST be allowed to overshadow the stupendous feats of Saint Etienne, under Roby Herbin, in the European Cup, so let me begin by paying further tribute to them, then go on to say that one of the greatest blemishes on an otherwise exceptional season was the violent affair between Bastia and Nice, in Corsica, when they played the second leg of their Cup tie, in April.

The first leg, drawn 2-2 in Nice, had been distinguished by a fabulous goal by Dragan Dzajic and some violent clashes which enraged the Bastia fans. They were well and truly waiting for Nice when they came to Corsica; the Nice players virtually had to run the gauntlet on their way into the Stadium, Bastia fans shouting, "Nice assassins!" and attacking them.

The consequence of this was that neither Josip Katalinski, the tough Yugoslavian international centre-half, nor Douis was able to take the field. Both, in the words of their president, M. Loeuillet, were badly injured, though M. Mariotti, a Bastia director who accompanied them on their way into the Stadium insisted most unconvincingly and displeasingly that nothing untoward had happened at all.

The last word surely belonged to that elegant and sporting player Jean-Marc Guillou who had this to say: "If one didn't die here, so much the better. One came out of it well." Enough said. No wonder Nice and their terrified players were beaten 4-0. They were, it is true, no angels in the first leg, but that was scarcely an excuse for the beserk behaviour of the Corsican fans on the occasion of the second.

Still, let us at least remember that marvellous goal by Dragan Dzajic — who did not take part in the return game. Receiving the ball in midfield, he saw at once with characteristic perception that there was a colleague offside on either flank. So he feinted a pass, drawing Katalinski, beat Zambelli, went through a tackle by Ascery, bore down on a solitary international keeper, Baratelli, and beat him to score. A goal in a thousand.

A forward anxious to be on the move is Didier Six of Valenciennes, a quick, sharp striker who made a brief appearance in the national team against Czechoslovakia recently. Six is quite open about it, frank to a fault; he says that there is no future with a club like Valenciennes, which never wins anything. "Next season, I want to play for a club which has its sights set on the title." Wistfully, one thinks that once upon a time young players set about making *their* club the one with its sights set on the title but things, as we all know, have changed.

Didier Six is certainly a much tougher, more disciplined player on the field than he used to be. Earlier, he had a reputation of being something of a cry baby. His marriage, he says, has helped him to grow up, and he has also been assisted by his father and by Louis Provelli, who spotted him for Valenciennes. His father was a Lille player in the 1940's, the time of such star attackers as Lechantre and Tempowski, to both of whom Didier pays tribute for their coaching, when he was a boy. His father wanted him to stay with Lille, but Provelli talked him round. So Didier is an international and an established first teamer while his father, now a commercial agent who has moved about the North of France according to the dictates of his job, never was really more than a Lille reserve.

Sad end to an otherwise dazzling season for another of the leading hopefuls of French football, Michel Platini. The gifted young attacker scored all three goals in the Cup for Nancy away to Laval, but tore his inner left cartilage, had to have it operated on in Lyon, and was left hoping he would be fit and able to play for France in the Montreal Olympics; Rumania permitting. Nevertheless his performance and goal against the Czechs has stamped him as surely as the way he played for the Olympic team against Rumania as one of our best hopes for many years.

Saint Etienne have benefited this season from extremely indulgent treatment from the Groupement, our League, allowing them to postpone their Sunday matches when they were due to play a European Cup match on the Wednesday. For all that, however, their efforts in Europe have seriously affected their performance in the League, allowing challengers to swarm round them who, I tend to believe, would never otherwise have got near them.

Not that Roby Herbin has ever taken the Championship other than very seriously indeed. He has gone on record to say that for him there is no question of relegating it to a secondary position, that even between Euro Cup matches, he has insisted that his players concentrate their efforts on the next match; that is to say, the next League game.

It was put to him that he had also said that people saw the real Saint Etienne only in the European Cup. To this he replied that it was merely because the European Cup comes upon a club so early in the season. "But there is a respectable gap between the second round and the quarter finals." Make what you like out of that somewhat enigmatic statement.

There seems little doubt, to me, that Saint Etienne have been able to gear themselves, to rise above themselves, in the European Cup game.

Good result for Germany in Valencia

by Arthur Rotmil

WEST GERMANY'S national team took a vital step in their bid to retain the European Championship, when it drew with Spain 1-1. This was the away leg of the quarter-final and the result not only confirmed the pre-match predictions by most German and neutral experts, but also pleased the German expedition to Madrid who were hoping for at least such a score line which affords them an excellent chance in the return in Munich.

This clash in Madrid's Vicente Calderon stadium (own by Atletico), was the third in the most recent incredible series of German-Spanish confrontations. After the Borussia Mönchengladbach v. Real Madrid European Cup quarter-final and its accompanying bad publicity (Borussia felt aggrieved by the seemingly one-sided refereeing of the Dutchmen Leo Van der Kroft), there followed the semi-final between Bayern Munich and Real billed by some sensation seeking papers as a "revenge" duel.

Unhappily the away leg at the Bernabeu stadium in Madrid ended on a disgraceful note, when Spanish fans attacked the Austrian referee Erich Linemayr and Bayern's striker Gerd Müller, who came to the official's rescue, was laid out by a blow and had to be helped off the pitch. It must be remembered that in Spain there are no fences and thus spectators have, like in Britain, relatively easy access to the playing area.

Encounter

Bayern made no mistake in the return winning by 2-0, thanks to goals from Müller, who thus increased his tally in European competitions to an amazing 58 goals! Of those he has hit 31 in the Champions Cup, 20 in the Cup Winners' and seven in the UEFA Cup tournament.

Next came the international team's long awaited encounter with Spain, by which time both sides knew each other inside out, since the Spanish team is based on Real Madrid's players — particularly in defence — while the German side was mainly composed of Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach players.

Once again West Germany's manager Helmut Schön was forced to make changes in his original line up, because several members of the squad suffered injuries just before the announcement of the party to travel to Spain.

Bayern's highly promising utility player Bernd Dürnberger, his recently recovered team mate Uli Hoeness, midfielder Uli Stielike from Mönchengladbach and his club colleague, that redoubtable striker Jupp Heynckes, were all unavailable.

Thus a new name appeared in the squad: 24-year-old Klaus Toppmöller (Kaiserslautern), who has developed this season into a prolific scorer and is particularly dangerous in the air. He did not, however, get a name in Madrid, for Herr Schön relied more or less on his tried and trusted forces. Captain Franz Beckenbauer performed in his 97th international; defender Berti Vogts gained his 70th cap; 'keeper Sepp Maier his 67th; centre back Georg Schwarzenbeck his 38th and midfielder Herbert Wimmer his 33rd. These were the old hands in the side which was full value for their 1-1 draw. The scorers were incidentally Santillana and Beer.

The winners of this tie were due to meet either Yugoslavia or Wales and the Germans were crossing their fingers for Wales — because then West Germany and not Yugoslavia would have staged the lucrative final round (semi-final and final) of the European Championship!

On the international club scene the three West German teams Bayern Munich, Eintracht Frankfurt and Hamburger SV did well to reach the semi-finals of the three European competitions. But only Bayern survived to dispute the final of the Champions Cup with a great chance of a third successive triumph.

That Bayern did not want to play the final in Glasgow was in a way understandable, once more they found out that between the 1st and the 15th of May, there was the Scottish Cup final and three internationals (Scotland v. Wales, Northern Ireland and England) scheduled for Hampden. "The Scottish people may be soccer mad, but I doubt if they are that well off to be able to afford so many football matches in such a short space of time," argued Bayern's president Wilhelm Neudecker.

He was obviously concerned about the financial risk with the Glasgow final, having already promised his players in writing the highest win bonus they had ever received!. This was rumoured to be 30,000 Marks per man — even with the devalued pound, some £6,000!

Bayern confirmed their return to form in the German Cup too. In the tough away tie to FC Cologne the Bavarians triumphed by 5-2! Needless to say that once again the chief "executioner" was Gerd Müller, with a brilliantly taken hat-trick. When his namesake on the opposing side, Dieter Müller, scored twice, the score board displayed the name Müller five times!

Action from the European Championship match between Spain and West Germany in Madrid. The game ended 1-1.

OPINION .... Brian Gl

FIFA SPRING OF REFEREES A

'Is Rene Courte that all referees of in Europe are ipso fa

FIFA NEWS, in a fervent but contentious editorial, written by their Publicity Officer, Rene Courte, have sprung, generically, to the rescue of referees, He begins by telling us, somewhat gratuitously and with no shade of irony, that: "The referee and linesmen are only human and for this reason can also err." He goes on: "We would also like to say that the game of football is unthinkable without the referee and linesmen and the basic principle — that the referee's decisions on points of fact on the field of play are final — is the only possibility for matches or competitions to be played at all and brought to a conclusion."

So to the point; the provoking incidents. "During the match Real Madrid v. Borussia Munchengladbach, two goals were refused after the intervention of a linesman." Indeed they were, and on extremely dubious grounds, so much so that even the Spanish Press, at least outside Madrid, expressed the view that they were good goals and should have been allowed to stand.

Had they been, then of course Real would have been knocked out of the European Cup and Borussia would have gone through to the semi-finals. Borussia appealed to UEFA, were turned down, inevitably and predictably on the ground that matters of fact were for the referee to interpret, and turned down again when they appealed against this decision.

Valid motive

After recalling the law of the game which deals with the relationship between the referee and his linesmen, the Editorial goes on to say that "the intervention of the linesman and the action of the referee were therefore one hundred per cent correct in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Decisions of the International FA Board."

This, alas, is a pure piece of question begging. Though legally and technically the decision may have been irrevocable, if, in the view of most neutral observers in the Bernabeu Stadium and of millions who later saw the goals replayed on television those goals were perfectly good then the referee has simply, on the apparent advice of his linesman, taken two decisions which were wrong. The best you can say about that is that they were taken in good faith, which the West German Press did not accept, and that though justice was certainly not done, there was no valid motive for overturning the decisions.

The Editorial proceeds, however: "The clubs know — and indeed are obliged to know — that they cannot achieve anything with protests afterwards against decisions of fact by the referee on the field of play, but then such protests after the match tend to accuse the referee and linesmen of dishonesty."

And later: "If the refereeing authorities were concerned or the official inspector were to find that a referee had decided consistently and with clear and repeated intent against a certain team, then this should be reported subsequently to the referee and he should be 'put into cold storage' and not be called upon to officiate at matches for a certain time."

There is no apparent sense of irony or parody in the sentence I have quoted. I am reminded of nothing so much as one of Harry Graham's *Ruthless Rhymes for Heartless homes*, in which he refers to "Percival, my youngest son" who "cut his sister's throat for fun."

I said, "Now Percy, manners please!
"You know you mustn't be a tease!
"If you do that another time,
"You shan't go to the pantomime!"

Fundamentally, M. Courte's editorial is irresponsible at worst, profoundly obtuse at best. He seems to have no true apprehension of what has been happening these last few years in European football; a fact one suspected when, a few months ago, he wrote in another editorial about a club which had been found guilty of trying to bribe a referee.

Alas, Juventus have never yet been found guilty

Glanville .... OPINION

TO DEFENCE AND LINESMEN

trying to say major tournaments cto above suspicion?'

of trying to bribe the Portuguese referee, Francisco Marques Lobo. We are still stuck with the convenient place of that Dezso Solti, now excluded from Hungary as well as being banned by UEFA as *persona non grata*, was acting wholly and solely on his own initiative when he went to Lisbon to try to "bend" the Derby County v. Juventus European Cup semi-final of April, 1973.

Is Courte, in his ham handed way, trying to say that *all* referees of major tournaments in Europe are *ipso facto* above suspicion, that even if they were shown to have been flagrantly favouring one side against another, the worst punishment to be visited upon them should be merely that of suspension for a limited number of matches?

Wheeling and dealing

Does he not realise that it is precisely this kind of attitude, when merely naive or profoundly cynical, which is threatening the very fabric of European, even international, football? Does he not realise that it is an open secret that for a decade the big Italian clubs, and probably (no, more than probably) the international team as well were wheeling and dealing in referees, bribing them rotten wherever they could, frequently manipulating matters so that they had the referee of their choice appointed for important games; as was vividly illustrated in the chart Keith Botsford and I published last year under the general title of *The years of the Golden Fix* in the *Sunday Times?*

The West German Press, seemingly happy and unembarrassed in their glasshouse, slung abundant stones at the Dutch referee Van der Kroft, who had taken charge so contentiously of that match in Madrid between Real and Borussia Munchengladbach. They pointed out the "suspicious" fact that it was to be his last game as a European referee. They insisted that there had been dirty work at the crossroads. But they might have saved their ink and their breath; or might have looked into the beam in their own eye, considered some of the still unanswered questions about the extraordinary refereeing of the French-Armenian Kitobdjian in the European Cup Final of 1975 in Paris between Leeds and Bayern, the refereeing of Bulgaria's Stanev when Bayern played at home to Malmo in the Second Round of the European Cup last year.

It may be remembered that Bayern, in shaky form that day, won 2-0 by two strangely controversial goals, one from what seemed a non-existent penalty, the other scored when one offside man passed *forward* to another. Malmo protested that expensive gifts had been made to Stanev before the game. UEFA, those fearless and devoted investigators, rejected the protest, accepting that Stanev had received only a banner and a beer mug.

Turned down

The trouble is, dear, perverse M. Courte, that even when evidence *is* provided, the ruling bodies are lamentably slow to move. The Lobo-Solti dirt was swept rapidly under the carpet, a letter of exoneration was sent to Juventus with the speed of light, a recommendation to make Solti *persona non grata* was ludicrously turned down by the Executive Committee, and there no doubt things would have stood had it not been for the *Sunday Times* investigation

Even as it is, Italo Allodi, one of the most controversial figures in European football, a man celebrated in the Italian Press, not least in *Il Paese Sera* of Rome, for his ability to win the friendship of referees, has just been given a four year contract worth some £50,000 a year as Director General of the Italian FA's Federal Technical Centre near Florence.

Editorials like M. Courte's do nothing to assuage legitimate worries. They merely increase them.

News from SPAIN by Keir Radnedge

Real Madrid Michels retu

REAL MADRID are champions again. They made certain by winning 2-1 away to Granada and made themselves unbeatable with one game — the derby with Atletico! — still to play.

Also, sadly and ironically, they pushed Granada under former Madrid manager Miguel Munoz that much nearer the second division, though the relegation issue was due to go right to the last weekend.

At least Madrid's 16th league title was some consolation for that Champions' Cup defeat by Bayern Munich in the semi-finals. Injuries to Paul Breitner, Pirri, Manolo Velazquez and Roberto Martinez were too much of a handicap — but, unlike some English Press colleagues, no-one in Spain thought to blame defeat on rumours that Miljan Miljanic might be joining Arsenal.

In fact, no-one in Spain took that matter seriously, and even looking at the affair from a position on a fence midway between the two countries there seem a lot of questions left unanswered. A little bit more honesty somewhere or other would be welcome.

At any rate Madrid keep their championship though their chances of the double again flew out of the window when they lost 2-1 on aggregate to second division Tenerife in an early round of the Cup. Madrid lost the first leg 2-0 when they were otherwise pre-occupied thinking about the Bayern ties. Santillana's lone goal wasn't enough to overcome the deficit in Chamartin when Madrid's confidence was at a low ebb.

They lost — apart from in Munich — 2-0 to Bilbao in the league and then went down 2-0 at home (goals by Carlos Rexach and Juan Carlos Heredia) to Barcelona. In fact Madrid have been losing so regularly this year that I'm not sure whether we ought to say they *won* the title or Atletico and Barcelona *lost* it.

A sign of the unsettled atmosphere has been the expulsions first of Amancio in Munich, then of Gregorio Benito 35 minutes from time against CFB. Benito was given his marching orders for a particularly unfriendly incident with Heredia, though his team-mates claimed Heredia ought to have gone too after niggling away throughout the match.

President Santiago Bernabeu called referee Jos Segrelles a "disaster," but if anyone gained from the match — CFB's second Chamartin win in three seasons — it was Barcelona president Agustin Montal.

The match had become a public trial of his decision to sign Johan Cruyff for another season. The CFB presidential elections aren't until next year, but Montal would have come under heavy pressure to quit now if Cruff and Co hadn't turned up trumps in Madrid.

No Muller

And now, what about the new manager? Not Lucien Muller, as I reported last month. But I wasn't misleading you intentionally. Everything was all set for the Frenchman to walk straight back into Nou Camp. Muller, of Course, had been busily denying it all, and keeping a low profile. Then — how he must be regretting it — he told a reporter: "Barcelona? That's really a very sad club."

Montal and his fellow directors, already extremely sensitive to criticism, took Muller's comment as a direct attack and decided he wasn't the man for the job. So back, astonishingly, comes Iron Rinus Michels, Holland's World Cup boss, who said when he was sacked by CFB last year that he intended going away to write a book and instead took on Ajax again.

Michels quit the Dutch side several weeks before the season's end and his name had been linked with Valencia. Hopefully he and Cruyff will be able to patch up the differences which marred their last season together when they were beaten by Leeds in the Champions' Cup semi-finals.

Michels is on a one-year stop-gap contract worth £112,000 — which seems an extremely good reason for learning to live at peace with the man still regarded (but for how much longer?) as the world's No. 1 footballer.

In the meantime Laureano Ruiz, who has been picking the team, has recalled old stagers Joaquin Rife and Antonio Torres from the wilderness of semi-retirement where they had been consigned by Hennes Weisweiler. The West German is now back with Köln where he was for many years stopper then youth team coach. But he left Spain with at least one complaint ringing in his ears.

"Weisweiler," said Miljanic, "is the best coach in the world." Miljanic, presumably, remains the best in Spain . .

Also leaving Barcelona has been Weisweiler's PT instructor/assistant Lothar Drygalski. Hugo Sotil will probably quit for Peru and veteran goalkeeper Salvador Sadurni will retire. His replacement could be the Olympic side's goalkeeper star Paco of Sevilla, whose love-hate relationship with his club was not softened by a recent fine for saying openly that he'd like to play in a better team.

At one time CFB toyed with the notion of inviting national team boss Ladislao Kubala to take over, but he's just signed on with the FEF for another two years. That means that by the time the 1978 World Cup comes around Laszy will have been in charge a record nine years!

Displays

In the meantime, after the displays here of Borussia Moenchengladbach and Bayern, no-one was too surprised that Spain could do no better than hold West Germany 1-1 in the first leg of the European Championship quarter-finals. Especially as the increasingly injury-prone Pirri had to pull out at the last minute.

Spain's new captain for the occasion was Juan Sol, the full back Madtid signed from Valencia last summer. Sol was also Spain's best player for a game which saw the return after illness and injury of Jose Iribar. But the Bilbao goalkeeper came in for plenty of stick for letting Erich Beer beat him from 30 yards for the West German equaliser.

World Cup Final referee Jack Taylor came in for criticism too for not awarding Spain a penalty for a foul on Santillana. But otherwise he handled what could have been a difficult match soundly — as Kubala agreed.

Kubala, incidentally, had also been on Valencia's wanted list, just like Argentina's World Cup midfielder Carlos Babington who is with West German unknowns Wattenscheid. Babington has had his problems with West German referees and been sent off twice this season. He might welcome a move to Valencia — though one foreigner would have to go.

Lately it seemed this would be Salif Keita. Now it's rumoured that Johnny Rep could go to West Germany. Weisweiler's Köln and Hamburg are interested. Mind you, Hamburg seem to be interested in anything that moves.

clinch title— rns to Bernabeu

I get a lot of pleasure each month out of providing the latest rumours about Valencia. They seem to sum up so much about football, Spanish football in particular, where it sometimes seems possible to write almost anything about anybody.

But, on a more serious note, Valencia were given a nasty shock recently with the seven-months' jail sentence and heavy fine on their former full back Adolfo Adorno for entering Spain on false papers. Adorno left Valencia two years ago, but it's pertinent to ask whether he is just the first in what could be a long line of *orlandi* prosecutions, or whether he's been used as a scapegoat for many better-known players. We shall see.

Valencia have already tried their hand at one definite signing. This is not a rumour. It's fact. But Espanol turned down their £350,000 offer for forward Daniel Solsona. Espanol could have a useful team for next season now that Carlos Caszely is scoring regularly. They could have a new manager as well. Jose Santamaria has been in charge for four years and president Manuel Meler has been thinking about a change. In that case Santamaria could go back to Montevideo to take up the Uruguayan FA's offer to manage their World Cup campaign.

More managerial changes are due elsewhere. Rafa Iriondo is leaving Bilbao and their former international goalkeeper Carmelo Sedrun is probably taking over. Waiting in the wings for the day Carmelo (?) gets the sack is old Spanish international half back Jesus Garay.

Zaragoza want a new boss too. Luis Carriega is on his way after four years' hard work which deserved better reward. Lucien Muller is one possibility. Malaga's Milorad Pavic, formerly of Benfica, Bilbao, Standard Liege and Red Star is another. He recently turned down the Ajax job because he prefers Spain.

Atletico Madrid, having missed the championship, won't be worrying about finding a new manager. Luis Aragones seems much too well established. But president Vicente Calderon was a little worried recently however when sweeper Luis Pereira, home in Brazil recovering from injury, was approached by several Brazilian clubs including champions Internacianol of Porto Alegre and Atletico Mineiro.

Calderon ordered Pereira back to Spain immediately, but his arrival was delayed because of the death of his father, who had been ill a long time.

Meanwhile, with Chevrolet away, Atletico saw their last hopes of the title fading when they went down 1-0 to Espanol and international centre forward Jose Garate was sent off ... for the first time in his career.

The Real Madrid players after clinching the Spanish League championship.

RANGERS SC MAJOR COM

SCOTTISH REVIEW

THE ADJECTIVE unbelievable has been used often over the recent years to describe the displays of Scottish giants Rangers and Celtic.

Only two years ago Celtic were being hailed in some performances as being "unbelievably good" while their Glasgow rivals were being called "unbelievably bad" after some of their easily-forgotten flops. Now there has been a huge change in Scotland. In two years there has been a startling transition with both clubs swopping places.

Rangers won the Scottish championship for the second successive season while Celtic, dare I say it? unbelievably didn't win anything. Such a feat from the Parkhead men would have been thought of as impossible a couple of years ago!

There is no argument now that Rangers are the best team in Scotland. There may have been some doubts last season. They won the championship while Celtic lifted the Scottish Cup and League Cup. The Ibrox men answered their critics in overwhelming fashion when they won EVERYTHING north of the border this season.

They won the League Cup earlier in the year when an Alex MacDonald goal beat Celtic in the Final and after they had clinched the title with a 1-0 victory over Dundee United, they flattened poor Hearts 3-1 in the Scottish Cup Final. Rangers didn't stutter in their run-in and, in fact, went almost 30 games without defeat. That's what I call consistency.

Jock Wallace's wholehearted team had luck on occasions, but they had the talent and the skill and the power to capitalise on their fortune. While the Championship was still in doubt they played two League games at Ibrox against Ayre United and Motherwell within four days. They picked up four points, but in both matches they made the most of their luck.

Against Ayr they lost a goal in the first minute, fought back to equalise and then substitute Derek Parlane scored the winning goal near the end with a shot that looked more like a cross. It baffled the Ayr defence, hit the post and rolled gently into the net. The following Wednesday Tommy McLean put Rangers ahead against Motherwell, who equalised with a headed goal from Gregor Stevens.

Later on Willie Pettigrew smashed a shot against the woodwork and Rangers' fans breathed a heavy sigh of relief. Days earlier they had seen a shot hit the woodwork and go in to give their favourites two points. This time the ball stayed out — again to Rangers' advantage. However, they didn't step back and take time to thank their lucky stars. They powered on and eventually Martin Henderson gave them victory with a low shot past goalkeeper Stewart Rennie.

I point out these instances because I believe teams do need luck to win the major trophies. However, some teams cannot make the most of their luck and sides like that will never win anything.

In the League Cup Final Rangers lived dangerously against Celtic when an unstoppable drive from Tommy Callaghan had goalkeeper Stewart Kennedy wondering what was happening, but the ball thudded off the top of the crossbar and rebounded to safety. Rangers, again, didn't waste time thinking of what might have been. They took the trophy to Ibrox when MacDonald dived to head a superb only goal of the game past the despairing Peter Latchford.

In Rangers' last game of the season they entertained — almost literally! — Dundee United at Ibrox. It was a gala occasion for the Ibrox men with 50,000 fans turning up to watch the spoils. United needed a draw to keep them in the Premier League and send their city rivals Dundee down into the First Division on goal difference. United got that point, but Rangers' unbeaten run collected another game when the Tanndice team missed a penalty-kick minutes from time. Again Stewart Kennedy didn't have much of a clue about where the ball was when Hamish McAlpine, the United 'keeper and captain, fired in the spot-kick, but, amazingly, it smacked the crossbar and the game finished in a goalless stalemate.

So Rangers end the season with all three domestic honours and they are looking forward to the new term with latest signing Iain Munro, from Hibs, ready to play his part in the defence of the titles. I believe Munro, a talented left-sided player, will make a hit with Rangers.

They have too often been accused of clothing their soccer with an iron grip and forgetting about the velvet touch. This has been true in the past to a certain extent. Men such as John Greig and Tom Forsyth — known as 'Jaws' at Ibrox — will never step out of a tackle, but, at the same time, there are few players north of the border who have more skill than Tommy McLean and Bobby McKean. You can now add Munro to those two.

McKean is a vastly under-rated player. He does a great job for the team and is so full of running. He'll chase back and cover positions and very rarely get any credit for this action. He doesn't carry a lot of weight in the tackle, but his positioning can often make up for this. Anyhow, McKean is NOT in this Rangers team to defend . . . he is there to attack and this he does to tremendous effect.

The former St. Mirren right-sided attacker almost scored the goal of the year in the Cup Final against Hearts when he displayed his character, flamboyance, skill and shooting power in one wonderful moment of drama at Hampden. Peter McCloy punted a long ball downfield and McKean raced in behind the hesitant Hearts' rearguard to tame the ball magnificently, and then turn and shoot all in a single movement. His shot was headed for the top left hand corner of the net until Hearts' veteran goalkeeper Jim Cruickshank took off on a mighty leap to get up and hold the ball in spectacular fashion.

The Final was a great disappointment for Hearts who never got over the blow of losing a goal in the first minute to big Derek Johnstone, who had scored within a minute only a week earlier to give Rangers the title while playing against Dundeed United at Tannadice. Hearts can only blame themselves for losing that goal.

McLean dropped the ball in their area with a superbly-flighted free-kick and Johnstone ran from one edge of the box to the other with Hearts' centre-half John Gallacher for company and then timed his leap to perfection before sending a header raging high past Cruickshank, who evidently thought the ball was going past the post.

The second goal — scored just on half-time — killed the game. This score was a bit of a tragedy for Cruickshank who appeared slow in geting down to a 25-yard grounder from MacDonald after the Hearts' defence didn't clear a cross from the right properly. The third goal in the second-half was a thing of beauty.

McKean collected the ball on the right with Hearts' skipper Jimmy Brown tight on him. McKean went one way, then

OOP THE PETITIONS

by ALEX GORDON

another, jinked back again and Brown was left for dead. McKean fired the ball across and Johnstone sped in before Jim Jeffries sliced the ball past Cruckishank.

The Tyneeastle side deserved a goal for their second-half display and they got it when a shot from substitute Kenny Aird, who should have been playing from the start, was blocked by Tom Forsyth and rebounded to Graham Shaw who sidefooted it past Peter McCloy. Hearts had come close in that second-half, but they left their efforts too late. Drew Busby had a shot that skidded inches past the post with McCloy beaten; Gallacher had a drive headed off the line by John Greig; Donald Park sizzled one past the upright from 20 yards and near the end Shaw hit the bar. Rangers, too, came close to adding to their score, but again they proved they had their wits about them when it came to accepting the run of the ball.

In their four League games against Celtic during the season Rangers scored four goals to Celtic's two. Those two extra goals brought Rangers a total of six points from a possible eight. Celtic had to be content with two points! That statistic shows clearly that there really wasn't a lot of difference in both sides when playing against each other.

Instinct

The big difference, I would say, is that Rangers have a killer instinct. They can sense when things are going for them and they chase victory. In the opening League game between the clubs an effort from Kenny Dalglish gave Celtic a 1-0 interval lead. Rangers came out in the second-half, survived a couple of near things and equalised with an unsaveable shot from Derek Johnstone. While Celtic were still trying to sort themselves out Quinton Young, now freed, raced on to a long ball from McCloy, held off a challenge from Pat McClusley, turned inside and swept a shot high past Peter Latchford, who much have been wondering where his defence was.

Rangers were only too happy to hold onto what they had and brought Derek Johnstone back into the middle of the park. Yet Celtic should have equalised near the end when their substitute Andy Ritchie headed a cross from the left down past McCloy, but the ball remarkably bounced on the line, hit the 'keeper and then McCloy sat on it! Unusual, but effective!

In the next Old Firm game Rangers had three real chances to score and did so once when Derek Parlane nipped in to accept a pass from McLean after a mix-up between Andy Lynch and Tommy Callaghan. Parlane raced off with Pat McCluskey helplessly in pursuit, sent Latchford one way, went the other and rolled the ball into the net. Celtic had four good chances to hit the net in this game, but took only one of them when a right wing cross from youngster George McCluskey — no relation to Pat — eluded the Rangers defence and Paul Wilson, who had a disappointing season, chested the ball down and over the line.

The third game was at Ibrox when lamentable marking in the Celtic defence allowed Johnstone to get his head to a McLean free-kick and flick the ball past the badly-positioned Latchford. That was the only goal of the game and there were no goals in the last game at Parkhead. Rangers were on the defensive for most of the 90 minutes, but Celtic just couldn't score.

A shot in the opening minutes from Johannes Edvaldsson beat McCloy, but Greig booted the ball off the line. Then Edvaldsson had the ball in the net, but the referee ruled it out because he had used a hand. There were many near things around McCloy that night, but nothing crossed the line.

Celtic will go into the new season with Jock Stein, now fully recovered from a car crash last year, back in charge. Assistant manager Sean Fallon will probably take care of the reserves again, but I wouldn't be surprised if there was a place found somewhere at Parkhead for Pat Crerand.

Celtic have problems on the playing side. Danny McGrain and Kenny Dalglish could walk into any team, but their presence alone is not enough to make up for their colleagues. I still maintain that Peter Latchford, despite criticism, is a good goalkeeper and he will only get better once Celtic find a settled centre-half.

Latchford has been with Celtic little over a year and already he has played behind *FOUR* centre-halves — Billy McNeill, Roddy MacDonald, Johannes Edvaldsson and Roy Aitken. Celtic haven't been settled in this position for a long time now and it could be that they will have to go into the transfer market to find the answer.

Francis Munro, of relegated Wolves, is now recovering after an end-of-season operation, but he could be a player to do Celtic a real turn in this position. His experience could settle the entire defence. One thing is for certain — Celtic cannot afford to play with men such as Aitken, McCluskey and Edvaldsson operating in the same back-four. None of this three-some is quick off the mark and a team with good front runners have a head start on them.

Unlike Rangers, Celtic have a problem who will spearhead their attack next season. The Ibrox men have Martin Henderson and Derek Parlane fighting for that spot and young Chris Robertson could be another to look out for. Dixie Deans wasn't at his best last season and it is a fact that Celtic are leaning far too heavily on him and Dalglish to get the vital goals.

I feel that someone such as Dunfermline's Ken Mackie, who once turned down the chance to join Rangers, could do a job for Celtic here. He, too, has had a miserable season with the once-proud Fife club being relegated to the Second Division. However, full-time training with a big club could again bring out his earlier promise. He is on the transfer list at the moment and could be bought for a figure around the £30,000 mark which I feel would be a bargin in the long run.

Anyway there have been many lessons for every Scottish club during a hectic and eventful season. St Johnstone and Dundee were relegated from the Premier League and their places will be taken by Partick Thistle and Kilmarnock. Cylde and Dunfermline drop into the Second Division with Cyldebank and Raith Rovers coming up.

It's been a historic season in Scotland with the League reconstruction. it has had its critics, but it still ensured an exciting end to the term. In the past Scottish fans can't argue that this has always been the case!

Rangers, pride of Scotland, will take their place in the European Cup with Hearts competing in the Cup Winners' Cup and Celtic and Hibs will be in the UEFA Cup. Here's to next season....

ERIC BATTY reports from Bratislava

Czechs with a

SINCE DYNAMO KIEV beat Ferencvaros in the final of the 1975 European Cup winners Cup and then took over the fixtures of the Soviet Union, it has been clear that their brand of football represents a real change from the somewhat dour, quick and strong but rather unimaginative label with which the Russian game has been tagged in recent years.

While many people raved about the Kiev club, I remained doubtful. It was clear they had some good players — and could stroke the ball around collectively, but in my view Ferencvaros were too easily led to the slaughter. Even when the Kiev club beat Bayern Munchen 3-0 on aggregate to win the new Super-cup my doubts remained for at that time Muller was out of gear, Hoeness was absent through injury and it was apparent from Bayern's league position at that time that they were far below their best.

Oleg Blokhin was clearly a good player, and so too were Viktor Kolotov and Vladimir Muntjan whom I had seen several times before playing for the USSR. I had also been impressed by inside left Leonid Burjak, a player who has so far failed to catch the eye of the international experts.

To find out just how good these Russians were was one of the major reasons why I went to Bratislava to see their away leg with Czechoslovakia. Having eliminated England from the competition, the Czechs would obviously provide the Russians with a real test.

Before the match the Russians had a psychological advantage having drawn 2-2 away to the Czechs in a friendly at Kosice just a few weeks earlier but as I have learned the hard way in recent years, friendly games are no substitute for the real thing.

The official attendance at Slovan Bratislava's Tehelne Pole stadium was 50,000 but I have it on good authority that approximately another 5,000 either climbed the walls or bribed the gate-keepers to let them in. As far as I could tell there were hardly any (if any at all) Russian supporters and even more surprisingly there were only two or three Russian journalists. There were however, one Hungarian, one Pole, one each from East and West Germany, a Dutchman and me... English according to my passport.

Lining up without Muntjan and Burjak, the Russians were probably a little below full strength though significantly, Valerij Lobanovsky turned out a team that included nine players from Dynamo Kiev, including their recent signing Viktor Zvagincev. The other two were goalkeeper Aleksander Prochorov and midfield player Jevguenij Lovchev, both officially with Spartak Moscow, but I understand they will also be transferred to Dynamo Kiev — if Lobanovsky finally decides he wants them.

Oleg Blokhin (white shirt) of the USSR and Jozek Capkovic of Czechoslovakia during their European Championship match in Bratislava.

Support

Ordinarily, transfers in Russia are very difficult to obtain, presumably because the authorities are afraid that money will change hands under the counter.

The official view is almost certainly correct, but it seems, everything is being done to support Dynamo Kiev who, it is hoped, will achieve for the Russian game, what Dukla Prague did for the Czechs and Honved did for Hungary before them.

In the international sphere, familiarity with each others play is one of the vital factors which is why Dukla and Honved, both in privileged positions when in their peak years and able to sign almost anyone they wanted were able to provide their national teams with the backbone of a very successful national team.

Many Czechs I spoke to, thought that they ought to take a similar step, allowing Slovan Bratislava who are clearly their top club of the moment, to make two or three signings that would enable

provide USSR tenacious test

them to do well in international club competition and also make the job of national team boss Vaclav Jezek that much easier. I recall, however, that 18 months ago, Slovan wanted to sign Ladislav Kuna from Spartak Trnava for their European Cup bid. Kuna is a player I have long admired and with Slovan lacking inspiration in midfield he would have done a great deal for them. But Trnava and the Czech FA said no and that was the end of it.

One last point before I write about the game. The inclusion of Prochorov underlines my personal view that Dynamo Kiev 'keeper Jevguenij Rudakov who is now 34 and was a fine 'keeper in his prime is now over the top.

The Russians began the game full of confidence, spraying the ball around with more than a little skill and imagination. The 'keeper always preferred to throw out to a colleague rather than kick the ball and once in possession, the entire defence and midfield looked very accomplished players. Hitting the ball with the outside of their foot very often; rattling off a rapid inter-change of first time passes, they made it clear that they are quite different from the stolid Russians I have become used to.

Accurate

What most people have referred to as a 4-4-2 formation played by Kiev is not really accurate. Against the Czechs they played with a full time *libero* — Mikhail Fomenko; three tight-marking defenders who each took on a Czech striker and three men draped across midfield. Up front, Oleg Blokhin and Vladimir Onitchenko looked at first sight to be up on their own, but as the game progressed it became clear that Vikto Kolotov really has no defensive duties. He plays a withdrawn centre forward role with the emphasis on attack, permanently poised behind the front two and ready to sprint forward — with or without the ball, at every opportunity.

The game itself was both interesting and exciting. The Russians wanted to control things in midfield which they did for long periods with their technical skill and good supporting play — also sending either Blokhin or Onitchenko away chasing long passes following a bout of midfield inter-passing.

The two strikers roamed across the pitch, pulling Czech defenders with them (and inevitably leaving spaces behind them on the flanks). Into these spaces, almost any well placed Russian would occasionally sprint forward looking for a long pass that changed the direction of attack and put them away as wingers. Left back Viktor Matvijenko looked the most capable, invariably finishing his breaks with a good cross or pass.

Kolotov, too, made an impression. Good in the air — he had one header that was goal-bound stopped by a colleague who got in the path of the ball, and often broke forward dangerously. Very skilful and intelligent, Kolotov was, at the end, the only Russian player to come out of this game with real credit.

Meanwhile the Czechs were very busy, hustling in midfield, harrying the Russians at every opportunity and going forward with determination whenever they got the ball. Knowing they needed goals to take to Kiev for the second leg, the Czechs took chances at the back that was good to see. Right back Karol Dobias recalled in place of Jan Pivarnik (cartilage trouble) usually positioned too well and was too good in his anticipation to allow Blokhin past him on the dribble, and Dobias also spent a great deal of time looking for all the world like a right winger.

When Dobias moved up, the Czechs kept only their twin stoppers back to look after the Blokhin-Onitchenko threat. Jozef Capkovic was preferred for his speed to Ladislav Jurkemik who had played against England, and chasing the Russian's long balls he and their skipper Anton Ondrus were usually fast enough to prevent a real break.

Ondrus, captain with Pivarnik unfit had a fine game. He too frequently moved up in open play... and to my surprise several times stayed up... revealing a great deal of skill for such a big man. At the back, Ondrus was full of confidence and I was particularly impressed when, chasing a long pass meant for Blokhin up the right wing, Ondrus got there first, calmly controlled the ball before dribbling past Blokhin and pushing forward a good pass. All this despite the fact that he was the last man in defence at the time.

Gradually the Czechs hard running and determined efforts to break down the Russians polished midfield play began to have their effect and suddenly it was the Czechs who took command of midfield. Jozef Moder, Jaroslav Pollack and Antonin Panenka were the nominal midfield three for CSSR but they were reinforced frequently by all the back four in turn, bar Capkovic. Once they had the ball the Czechs threw everything forward and then faced by a seven-man Russian filled penalty area, invariably ended their moves with English type high crosses.

Before the game Vaclav Jezek had told me he wanted his players to fight. This they certainly did — and no one did better than Pollack, my man of the match who had been in bed with 'flu three days earlier but insisted on playing. Pollack lacks the class of Panenka and hasn't the vision of a truly great player but against the USSR he worked like three men. Time after time he won the ball, broke forward to beat a man or two then made a simple pass that kept the Czechs going forward, and with the back players joining in, the Russians gradually found themselves outplayed.

Once the Russians found themselves under pressure, cracks began to appear in their previously skilled and controlled game. Their composure left them and the Czechs began to make chances. Zdenek Nehoda might have had a goal in the first half with better shooting; tragically, Ladislav Petras whom I had not seen live since the Mexico World Cup went off after 15 minutes to have five stitches in a head wound following a clash of heads after only 15 minutes and this I think proved critical.

After 34 minutes, Pollack won the ball again, evaded three Russians in a run down the right wing, then a split second before he was chopped down he slipped the ball inside. Moder, at inside right and just outside the penalty area let fly with his left foot with a first time cross shot and if Prochorov might have been unsighted, the ball flew like a bomb, low past the 'keeper's right hand. 1-0.

The Czechs deserved their lead, having wrested the game away from the Russians and for half an hour setting up almost one way traffic.

With the second half only two minutes old the Czechs went further ahead. A foul just outside the Russian penalty area gave Panenka a chance with a free kick and he drove his shot wide of the Russian wall, getting a slight touch off a defender I thought, and again Prochorov was beaten low down to his right hand.

Nehoda then had another good chance, shooting well but forcing Prochorov to a good save before the incident that could have made the trip to Kiev a formality. Panenka found right winger Marian Masny who beat a man and crossed. Nehoda came in like a train to shoot and Prochorov flew across his goal to save with his left hand. The ball ran loose and the inexperienced substitute Karel Kroupa found himself alone some five yards out with the 'keeper on the ground and the goal at his mercy. Somehow he contrived to shoot high over the bar and the Russians got off the hook.

ARTHUR ROTMIL spotlights England's World Cup opponents

THE ENGLAND national team starts hopefully on the long road towards qualification for the World Cup finals in 1978, when it tackles Finland in Helsinki on June 13. This is the opening fixture in the European qualifying Group II, in which the other contenders are Italy and Luxembourg.

At first glance modest Finland, whose players are nearly all amateurs, does not appear to present much of a hurdle for England, who can select a team from the largest reservoir of professional footballers of any country. But those unfamiliar with international soccer will do well to ponder upon these developments which could affect the outcome of even this seemingly "easy" match.

1. The standards of football have been rising steadily all over Europe in recent years and as a result of this levelling out even those national teams which not long ago were thought complete outsiders, can rise to the occasion on their own ground and upset even the biggest favourites. Such splendid victories as achieved by Iceland v. East Germany, Malta against Greece, or Cyprus v. Northern Ireland, suport this theory. And Finland's 0-0 draw with Italy last September in Rome, speaks for itself.

Chronic

2. England have failed to qualify for the finals in the last two major competitions, the World Cup of 1974 and the European championship in 1976. It is already painfully obvious, that even the change in management has not, as yet, cured some of the chronic ailments which persistently plague the national team.

3. The England players have left their clubs in April, but instead of enjoying a holiday after a strenuous season, they were kept for six weeks together playing six internationals: v. Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland in the Home Championship and against Brazil, Italy and USA, as part of America's bi-centennial celebrations. By the time they travel to Finland most of them will be either jaded, or just plain bored with the whole business, moreover as they are likely to underestimate the Finns.

Of course, the results to date between the full professional England side and the unpretentious Finnish teams show three wins with a total goal tally of 16-1! In 1937 England won in Helsingfors, as it was then called, by 8-0; in 1956 by 5-1 (Helsinki) and ten years ago, as part of the World Cup preparations by 3-0, also in the Finnish capital, their goals coming from Peters, Hunt and Jackie Charlton.

But since then the Finns, in common with the other European "minnows", have made great strides and are no longer the pushovers of old. In the aforementioned 0-0 draw with Italy, which was after all for the hosts a vital European Championship tie, the Finns surprised everyone with the quality of their football. This was Finland's last international — as I write. Before meeting England they were due to play Switzerland at Kuopio on May 19, and their old Scandinavian rival Sweden, in Helsinki, on June 2, as part of their build up.

West Ham, who reached the final of the Cup Winners' Cup, also had their hands full with Finland's representatives Reipas Lahden in this season's First Round. In Finland the Londoners were in fact twice behind, until a late goal by captain Billy Bonds saved their faces at 2-2. In the return at Upton Park a confident crowd, who came expecting a goal riot, were left biting their nails as an hour passed before West Ham scored and that's how it stayed till the 89th minute. Only then did the "Hammers" score two more goals to run out winners by the flattering margin of 3-0.

And in the UEFA Youth tournament Finland caused a sensation by reaching the final last season. In this they lost to England just by 1-0, after extra time. It must be remembered, of course, that England are the only country in Europe to field apprentice professionals in this annual tournament. No junior player in Europe is allowed to sign on as a professional before the age of 18.

Coaches

Hence England enjoy a great advantage and this also accounts for her good record in the Youth Cup, often erroneously described by the British Press as the "Little World Cup" — but only, so the cynics say, when England win!

But for little Finland to get into such a final was already nothing short of miraculous. And it underlines the fine ground work done among the youngsters in that country. Especially when considering that there are just a handful of full time coaches in Finland. The general interest in football is fairly high, yet this sport does not rank first in popularity over there. It comes a poor fourth behind athletics, cross country ski-ing and ice hockey.

In these circumstances the Finns can be proud of the fact that they have produced several outstanding players, who became well known professionals with clubs abroad. In the 'fifties Aulis Rytkonen made his name with French club Toulouse, with whom he collected a cup winners medal (1957). In the 'sixties striker Juhani Peltonen starred for the famous German club Hamburger SV. In recent years Arto Tolsa has gained valuable experience in Belgium, while another goalgetter, Tommy Lindholm, was even enticed to far away Turkey!

Looking over the past eleven years one finds some notable victories by Finland over Poland by 2-0 (1965), Sweden 1-0 (1966) and spain 2-0 (1969). But such results have been rare indeed.

The odds are therefore stacked heavily against the Finns. After all, statistics show that England, in the past 20 years, have played more internationals than any other country in the world! By way of comparison: in the space of 18 months England played more matches, than Finland during a period of three years!

It should be noted, however, that climatic conditions prevent the Finns from playing football between the beginning of November and the end of April. Their twelve-team First Division runs its programme not like in most European countries (August till May/-June), but from spring till autumn.

Controls

The Finnish Football Federation was founded in 1908. It controls some 750 clubs, which support a total of 1,800 teams. The number of registered players is put at 36,000. The match against England will be staged at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki (scene of the 1952 Games), which has a capacity of just under 50,000. The country, whose population is roughly 6,000,000, is proud of its sporting traditions, even if soccer has never been considered a national sport in the sense accepted in other countries.

FINLAN

NO PU

Don Masson heads Scotland's first goal during the match against England at Hampden Park.

D WILL BE SH-OVERS!

There is little doubt that they will give England a hard game and by that I also mean physical engagement. This tough Northern European breed is famed for its strength and resilience. They have in fact often been criticised in the past for their robust approach. Their athletic preparation aimed at speed and stamina will not be found wanting, even if technically the Finns do not measure up to the top European teams.

Men to watch are the 30-year-old *libero* Arto Tolsa, one of those who turned professional in foreign lands, a player of vision, delicate skills and vast experience. Left back Paatelainen is highly effective as an attacking player and has scored some vital goals in international matches.

They may also gamble on the new great hope, a "wonder boy" Harri Lindholm, who played so well in the UEFA Youth tournament and against West Ham (for Reipas) scoring one of the goals in the 2-2 draw. And not forgetting centre forward Rissanen, who can trouble the best defences with his turn of speed and deft flicks. It is equally certain that they will be meticulously prepared as far as tactics are concerned, something which was so evident in the aforementioned Youth Cup competition.

Have the Finns any chance of beating England? Well, that is of course another story. But they fervently hope to surprise England and that should be worth watching!

England goalkeeper Ray Clemence . . . in training for Finland.

THE WRATH OF PELE...

and a chance for American soccer to show the way

PAUL GARDNER reports from New York

IF EVER there was a point that needed labouring, then it is the whole subject of rough play or dirty play or tactical fouling — call it what you will — in contemporary soccer. So let us labour it.

It is a subject that has a peculiarly sharp relevance to the North American soccer scene just at the moment. We have, in the North American Soccer League, a really quite extraordinary hodge-podge of player talents. It ranges from the supremely skilled (Pelé, Best, Marsh etc.) down to some whose ineptitude has to be seen to be fully appreciated (and who shall remain nameless).

I doubt whether any soccer league in the world has ever contained such wide disparities in playing styles and levels. It is a dangerous, potentially explosive, mixture.

A sad example of just how explosive came to us during the telecast of the New York Cosmos' first game of the season. Right at the end of the game viewers were treated to the sight of Pelé—yes, the legendary Pelé—running full speed past the ball and launching himself at the legs of a Miami Toros defender. An ugly and dangerous foul, one for which Pelé should surely have been cautioned, if not ejected from the game.

Lenient

Yet, had he been ordered off, travesty would have been added to tragedy because Pelé's assault was the almost inevitable climax to an afternoon in which he had been repeatedly kicked and knocked down. It was, in short, retaliation for 90 minutes of cynically brutal play by the Miami defenders, all of it taking place under the inexplicably lenient eye of referee Gordon Hill.

Hill was one of the top referees in England until he came to the States last year; now, of course, he is widely thought of as the best referee here. I have no idea what possessed him to allow the roughness to develop to flash point, but he may unwittingly have done us all a favour. For Pelé's explosion dramatically focuses attention on the NASL's problem.

The danger is that the league's inferior players, feeling themselves outclassed (and how right they are) will resort increasingly and systematically to rough play. Forgive the orthodox euphemism. I mean that they will methodically kick opponents rather than the ball. Bad enough anywhere, but potentially disastrous in a country where soccer is still trying to prove itself capable of attracting the nation's youth.

Of course, I am not so naive as to imagine that I have discovered anything new here. It is a worldwide problem, and its very universality is one of its most puzzling aspects. Nobody — or, at least, nobody that I have spoken to — denies that it exists; everybody thinks that something should be done about it; yet there is a widespread fatalistic attitude that, in the long run, nothing *can* be done.

Giorgio Chinaglia, the Cosmos and ex-Lazio centre-forward, says: "Most defenders, when they've got a good forward playing against them, just play the guy's legs or his body — forget about the ball. That's what it comes down to. And the referees let it go, they just keep the game going." Chinaglia shrugs when asked whether it can be stopped, pointing out that a clamp-down was tried in England, but that it didn't last.

Because he is a defender, and therefore one of the accused, Bobby Moore's word carries considerable weight. He admits that the kicking goes on, but doesn't see much that can be done about it: "That's the way the game is played now. It's illegal, but the referees accept it because they want to keep the game going, because that's what the fans want. What do you want — 20 free kicks in the first five minutes?"

Affairs

Agreed, one does not want a game constantly interrupted by whistling. But such a state of affairs might be acceptable for a short while if it could be seen to be clearly leading to better soccer. There is surely a Gresham's Law of Soccer: bad soccer will drive out good soccer. Violent play is a serious threat to the game itself. It has to be stopped.

How? We are back to the old nemesis, the tackle from behind. Except that I insist we are, in most cases, dealing with yet another euphemism. Most such tackles are not, in fact, tackles at all. They are trips, or kicks, disguised as tackles. Dangerously disguised.

A simple trip, committed in the classical way by tapping the raised leg of a running player, is too easily spotted by the referee . . . and tripping, as we all know, is illegal. So the pursuing player slides or swings into the dribbling player's support leg—as though he were trying to get to the ball. And we have the anomaly of a much more dangerous foul, but one that is less likely to be penalised by the referee. Poor soul, he is now asked to sort out the split-second tangle of legs and decide whether or not the ball was played first, or if it was played at all, by the defender. Small wonder that so many of these fouls are waved on.

Legislate

The attempt to ban such fouls immediately runs into a problem that is related more to attitudes than to the realities of the situation. Hands are raised in horror and the verdict is given before the trial: it can't be done, you can't legislate for that sort of thing, it's too much an instinctive part of the game. This is Portia's age-old warning — "The brain may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree."

Maybe. I happen not to agree, with either Portia or the soccer pessimists. A look at the performance of Argentina in the 1974 World Cup is useful here. The Argentinians, whose very name had come to mean, and not without reason, everything associated with soccer thuggery, went out and played some of the cleanest (and not incidentally, the most skilful and the most attractive) football of the whole tournament. Heavens, one even remembers Ayala retrieving the ball for an opponent to throw in!

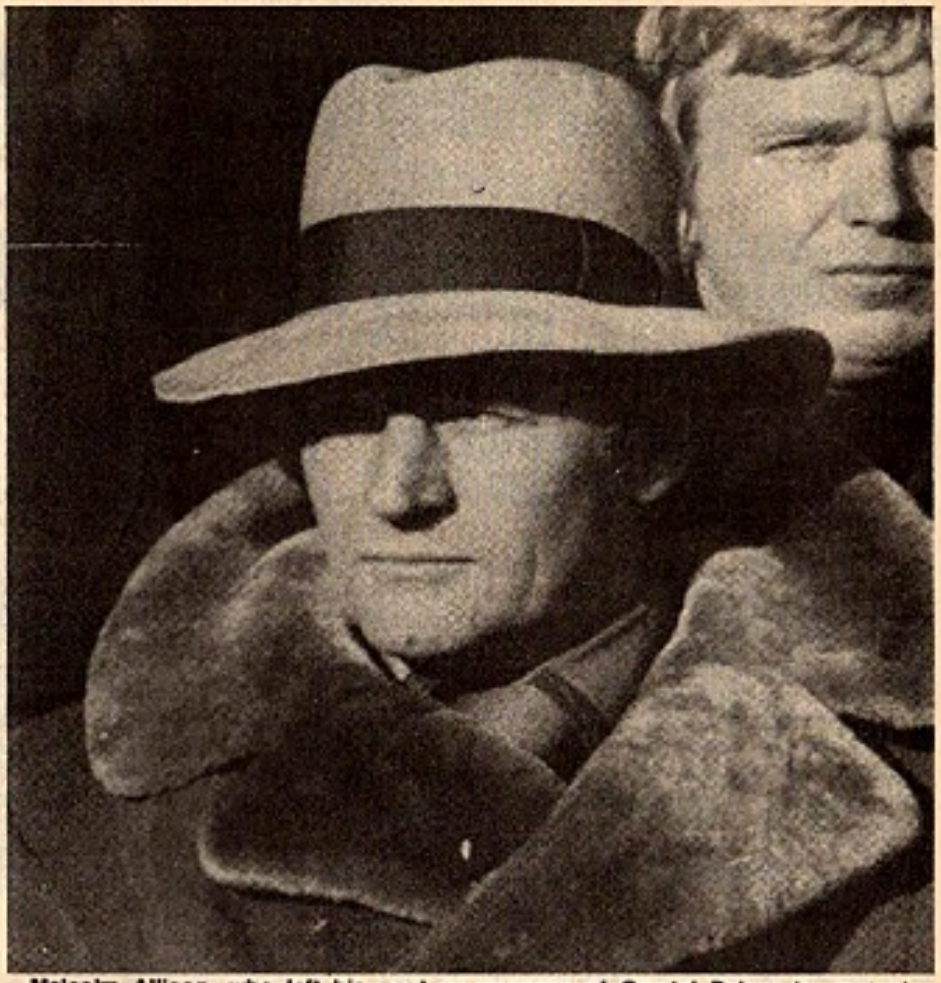
Of course, we know *why* the Argentinians were so anxious to create a good impression. But that is not the point. Clearly, someone in authority among the Argentinians had ordered: cut out the rough stuff. And—zap!—it was cut out. Add to that the tighter refereeing that the World Cup brings, and you begin to come close to the sort of thing we should be getting all the time.

I believe that the fouling could be considerably reduced by a consistent and firmly applied campaign of more stringent refereeing. Which means increasing the risks for the offending teams. As soccer's rules stand, the punishment (often a direct free kick somewhere in midfield, where many of the fouls occur) is simply not deterrent enough. Indeed, the stoppage may even give an advantage to the offending team.

The penalty can only be increased by visiting the punishment immediately on the individual player (and hence, of course, ultimately on his team). A yellow card for the first offence, and a red for the second. If the first offence occurs in a goal-scoring situation—e.g. on a breakaway by an opposing forward — a red card at once. With no ifs or buts. If we are going to hand out compulsory yellow-cards for international hand-balls, then there is absolutely no excuse for not giving them for offences which threaten to turn soccer into a sport for thugs.

This is where I think the NASL is presented with a magnificent opportunity. Nothing less than the chance to become the world leader in the campaign to clean up soccer. Why shouldn't the NASL be known as the league where gifted players are protected, where their skills are allowed to flourish? Players like Pelé and Best have to be protected not because they are famous names, or because they cost their clubs a lot of money, but because they are trying to play soccer the way it should be played.

That is the opportunity for the NASL. To institute an effective campaign against violence, to act decisively where everyone else is merely talking, or worse, turning a back on the problem. To become not only the leading soccer league in the world, but to go down in soccer history as the league that rescued the sport from violence and thuggery. The league that gave back to the soccer the things that made it the world's No 1 sport: skill, artistry and sportsmanship.



Malcolm Allison, who left his post as manager of Crystal Palace by mutual agreement in May, has been visiting America recently.

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GLASGOW RANGERS fan wishes to exchange football gossip, souvenirs, programmes, etc., with football supporters anywhere, any teams, esp. Rangers, Borussia Dortmund, and New York Cosmos. Dave Elliott, 40 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5AH, Scotland.

I AM A 15-YEAR-OLD LEEDS UNITED SUPPORTER and would like foreign pen pals of about the same age that are interested in football. James Camp, 36 Fairlight Avenue, Chingford, London, E4 6PA.

I AM LOOKING FOR A FRIEND who wants to change football badges from all the world. Josef Marek, Mánesova 808,500 02 Hradec Králové I.Czechoslovakia.

WANTED.— Any Wrexham material, preferably pre-war programmes, photo s, books etc. Also Wales items including 75th Anniversary (1951) Brochure. Will pay good prices for any. G. M. Davies, 70 Bryn Glas Close, Holyhead, Anglesey.

URGENTLY REQUIRED. Chelsea programmes 1975-76 season. Home v Portsmouth, v Blackburn Rovers, v Fulham, v West Ham (Testimonial for Harry Medhurst & Dickie Spence. Away: v Notts Co., v Plymouth A., v Charlton, v York C. Will pay top prices. Tile Barn, Townsend Rd., Streatley, Berks.

WORLD SOCCER, NOVEMBER 1967 TO DECEMBER 1975. Complete, good condition. Best offers. J. W. Short, 16 Elmfield Road, Cheltenham. Phone 33486.

MANCHESTER UTD. Home & away progs. of all seasons wanted. I can offer the following rates for each received. 1965-76 4p or 3 League programmes, 1960-65 10p or 6 progs., 1955-60 15p or 9 progs., pre 1955 30p, 20 progs. or 2 ex-League club homes of my choice. Stephen Gillespy, 13 Bare Ave., Morecambe, Lancs LA4 6BD.

I AM COLLECTOR of football badges. I would like pen pals to exchange football badges. My address: Jan Peterka, ul. Ruskaí 152/777, 100 00 Praha 10, Czechoslovakia.

SOCCER STAR. Cash offers required:- Vol. 10 (1962) Nos. 33-52. Vols. 11-18 inclusive (1962/63-1969/70) complete. "Thornton", Whitepost Lane, Culverstone, Meopham, Kent.

England search for players of real ability

AS OUR three England matches against Italy draw nearer, notably the two games (November 1976, November 1977) in the World Cup, one begins more and more to feel that hope lies in the emergence of a "sport", a force of nature, David Fairclough, perhaps; in other words, of a player capable, in the Italians' own fetching expression, of "inventing the game". I had hoped it would be Duncan McKenzie, had canvassed for him at least what I called the right to fail, but at the very time when the hectic international programme was looming, McKenzie went off the boil, unable to command a regular place even in the Leeds United team, and for rather more concrete and cogent reasons than a year ago. This has not in any sense destroyed my confidence in McKenzie, my strong belief that he is a player of exceptional gifts who, sooner or later, deserves his chance of international football, but clearly it was not the moment to continue pushing him and his claims. But something new, someone gifted and unexpected, is necessary, if England are not to fail once more in the World Cup. We shall be given some idea of the extent of the task — I write before the match — on May 28, in New York (Yankee Stadium and their four hour rain clause permitting), New Haven or wherever, when the Italian team are met in the Bicentennial Tournament.

by Brian Glanville

The difference between playing most European teams and playing one from Italy could scarcely have been better pointed up than by two matches West Ham had this season at Upton Park: against Fiorentina in Gigi Peronace's Anglo-Italian Cupwinners' Trophy, against Eintracht Frankfurt, several months later, in the second leg semi-final of the European Cupwinners' Cup. West Ham won the second 3-1, but lost the first, 1-0.

Against Eintracht Trevor Brooking dominated play and scored two goals with his splendid, long legged, clever runs from defence, his fine passing, his experience, his calm. Against Fiorentina he found it very hard to get into the game, since his every step was dogged by the Fiorentina defender, Beatrice, who might, if one may essay the joke, be said to have done so as effectively as his namesake once eluded Dante.

Poor Brooking confessed after the game his frustration and his bewilderment; it was so hard to turn with Beatrice forever on your heels. Enzo Bearzot, Italy's national team manager, has now watched Brooking several times, and feels that he lacks acceleration. What we do know is that when Italy play England next November, and if Brooking is in the team, he can assume that someone like Romeo Benetti will follow him as assiduously as did Beatrice at West Ham.

Kevin Keegan can expect much the same. Bearzot marvelled, with a certain element of wondering admiration, at the way West Ham allowed him to run riot against them, at Upton Park, in the Cup.

Stuart Pearson of England turns away after scoring the third England goal against Northern Ireland at Wembley.

Solutions

Bearzot has suggested that an interesting England formation would be to play the two Manchester United wingers Hill and Coppell with Keegan darting about between them as a mobile centre-forward.

Perhaps. It is fairly obvious that there is little hope of getting the goals we need against Italy in the World Cup with the present set of strikers; could David Fairclough provide us with the answer? If I appear to be clutching at straws, let me remind you that another centre-forward with a Liverpudlian club was only 19 when he began scoring goals for England; Tommy Lawton, in 1938; and that desperate solutions will surely be needed.

Fairclough, who brings back memories of Albert Stubbins with that red head in the centre-forward position for Liverpool,

HOME INTERNATIONAL SCAMPERINGSHIP

is one of the pitifully few young forwards of our day who hasn't had the skill and verve and cheek and bold enterprise bred out of him, either at schoolboy level or by coaching at his League club. You will have seen for yourself the marvellous ease and readiness with which he takes on defenders, one after another, ending with a powerful shot into the goal; or, in the case of that astonishing performance in April against Manchester City at Maine Road, two. Might it not be worth giving him a trial?

There would, I submit, be far more sense in blooding thus early a 19-year-old centre-forward than in relying on a 19-year-old midfield inside-forward; such as Butch Wilkins, of Chelsea. In this case, though I am sensible of young Wilkins' promise, talents and precocity, the burden is surely too great. Orchestrators of the football field, unless they be that rarity, a Gianni Rivera, emerge and mature with age.

Joined

Making Wilkins captain of Chelsea this season seemed to me in itself a doubtful, perhaps an unfair, move. Centre-forwards, wingers, even full-backs can, it seem to me, be thrown into the fray at international level somewhat earlier; although Italy's Pecci, who joined Torino from Bologna this season at 20, and has played so well for Italy, notably against Portugal, may be the exception who proves the rule.

After vertiginous ups and downs with his Italo-Argentinian manager Bruno Pesaola at Bologna, where he was also unwise enough to say that the only difference between Pele and himself was that he was white, Pecci has settled down nicely with Torino, who had such a fine, late run in the League Championship. With him in midfield plays Claudio Sala, who Torino fans feel should be playing for Italy ahead of Fiorentina's gifted Giancarlo Antognoni. Unfortunately, in that Portuguese match, they expressed their feelings with great vigour and vehemence, giving poor Antognoni a very hard time of it.

Moving Eastwards across Europe, I am intrigued and a little appalled that while the Hungarians have apparently seen fit to follow the belated example of UEFA by making Dezso Solti *persona non grata* **in their country, Istvan Zsolt, the referee who was recently interviewed in these very pages, continues to enjoy high esteem. This despite the part he played in the strange affair of what one might call The Caution That Never Was in Liège early in 1972, when Standard Liège played Internazionale in the European Cup.**

The referee was a Hungarian called Emsberger, and he booked two Inter players, one of them the right-half, Bedin. Up to him after the game came Istvan Zsolt, no longer a practising referee and, in fact, not at the match, be it noted in any official capacity at all.

He told Emsberger — and I have spoken to Emsberger in company with my *Sunday Times* colleague Keith Botsford at Tatabanya, the mining town not far from Budapest, in December 1974 — that he had a 'plane to catch. To save him time he, Zsolt, would fill in his UEFA report. And he did. But he did not mention that Bedin had been cautioned. Bedin's second caution, in fact, which would automatically have excluded him from the next European Cup game. UEFA noticed it, Emsberger was sanctioned. Zsolt, I understand, is now an overseer of referees in Hungary.

Honest

When I interviewed Zsolt about the Liège affair a year ago, in my London house, he was uncharacteristically and strangely reticent. He denied nothing merely telling me, guardedly, that Emsberger was a decent, honest man and if that was what he had told me, then that was how it must have been. He did not attempt to excuse, explain or defend himself.

Given that Solti has now been excluded from Hungary while Zsolt appears to flourish there, one can conclude only that Solti's chief sin was to flout the Eleventh Commandment; and rather more flagrantly than Zsolt. After all, Zsolt, too, was found out, but his extraordinary antics in Liège do not seem to have bothered the Hungarian football authorities, who are quite happy to put their refereeing affairs in his hands.

What a strange world the world of football is, and how curiously it seems to be administered.

European Cup Final special

Exclusive photos by Peter Robinson

TOP RIGHT: The goal that decided the 1976 European Cup Final and gave Bayern Munich of West Germany their third successive Champions' Cup victory. Roth's free kick is too good for St. Etienne goalkeeper Curkovic.

BELOW: A scare for Bayern Munich as St. Etienne come close to scoring a first half goal.

BOTTOM LEFT: St. Etienne goalkeeper Curkovic scoops this shot from Hoeness off the line to prevent Bayern Munich from scoring in the first half.

LEFT: Gerd Muller of Bayern Munich evades a tackle by a St. Etienne defender.

BELOW: An early controversy in the European Cup Final . . . Gerd Muller "scores" but is ruled offside by a linesman — a decision which was unsubstantiated by TV play-back evidence.

ABOVE: Larque blasts a St Etienne free-kick at the Bayern Munich wall.

ZICO NEW HERO FROM FLAMENGO

BRAZILIAN SOCCER fans have a new hero and they expect him to step into Pelé's shoes. He is 23-year-old Artur Antunas Coimbra, the youngest son of a family of soccer players who plays under the name of Zico to keep his own identity (as is the case with many Brazilian players).

His father, Jose, was goalkeeper for Vasco da Gama. Brother Edu plays for Flamengo, Zico's club, and another brother, Zeca, played for America and Fluminense.

Flamengo has won its first six matches in the Carioca championship with 15 goals to its credit, six of which were scored by Zico who is league top scorer. Altogether this year, Flamengo has played 18 games, winning 12 and drawing six and Zico has netted 19 of their 45 goals.

Meanwhile, a former Flamengo international forward, Dario, beat what Brazilians call a world record which has been held by Pele (since 1964) jointly with another Brazilian, Jorge Mendonca. Dario scored 10 goals for his present club, Esporte Recife in their 14-0 victory over Santo Amaro in the Pernambuco state league in April. Pele and Mendonca had each scored eight for Santos and Nautico Pernambuco respectively.

Thirty-year-old Dario was in the Brazilian team which won the World Cup in Mexico in 1970 and although no official records are kept, it is estimated that he has scored over 600 goals in pro soccer.

● **IN ARGENTINA, Huracan, last year's runners up to champions River Plate, are the only team playing consistently good football in the Metropolitan First Division with rhythm, continual rotation, team work and good performances from internationals Brindisi, Ardiles and Houseman.**

After 13 matches they are the only unbeaten team of the 22 and with a six-point lead in section A, they need only a combination of eight more points or losses by the seventh placed team from nine remaining matches to qualify for the final round into which the top six of each section go.

Estudiantes de La Plata could be second if they hadn't lost two points for fielding a suspended player earlier in the season and lately their conservative tactics have also cost them points when they were the superior team.

Boca Juniors, sharing second place with erratic Libertadores Cup holders Independiente, haven't yet satisfied even their own coach, Juan Carlos Lorenzo, in spite of their many pre-season buys, but free-scoring ex-Banfield forward Taverna is only now finding his scoring legs to add punch to a lacklustre attack which has hit only 16 goals in 13 matches in spite of good backing.

The fight is closer in section B with the leadership frequently changing hands as the top four are only two points apart. San Lorenzo (joint leaders with Gimnasia y Esgrima at press time) have won their last seven matches (in spite of missing internationals La Volpe (goal), Olguin and Scotta on tour in Europe for a time) without really playing well. But no other team has shone in this section where River Plate, who have played several matches with reserves while reaching the semi finals of the Libertadores Cup, are only a point from the top.

The champions — who beat classic rivals Boca Juniors 1-0 on the latter's field to square the series (since pro soccer started here) at 40 wins each — seem to have tightened their notoriously weak defence, but are not playing well as their midfield aces, Alonso and J. Lopez, are passing through a bad stage. Defender Perfumo scored the vital goal against Boca and defender Passarella, who had another annuled in that match, is among their leading scorers while only international Luque (top scorer with six) stands out in attack.

Until a week before press time, Racing Club held the curious record of having most goals for and against (26-26) — the result of a weak defence and dangerous counter attack. They may just miss the final round (coach Osvaldo Zubeldia's

Penarol goalkeeper Corbo saves a header from Fabiani (Palestine, Chile) who is hidden by the goalkeeper. Palestine won this group 5 match of the Libertadores Cup 2-1.

Boca Juniors reserve goalkeeper Blasuto saves from River Plate's Alonso (not in picture) during the meeting of Argentina's two most popular teams at the Boca stadium which River Plate won 1-0. First choice goalkeeper Gatti was out with a broken jaw sustained the previous week in his first league match since his return from Europe with the national team.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

resignation has just been accepted) but their forwards Gottardi and Fortunato top the scorers table with nine and eight goals respectively — the latter jointly with Astegiano (Independiente), Coronel (San Telmo), Gonzalez (Banfield) and Palacios (Newell's).

Vital positions changed little, even while several clubs were weakened by the absence of their internationals and with nine matches to go, Huracan, Boca Juniors, Independiente and Estudiantes from section A and Gimnasia, San Lorenzo, River Plate and newly promoted Quilmes from section B seem to be sure bets for the final round. The halfway stage was reached with no major onfield incidents, but 47 players were sent off in the 121 matches.

● **URUGUAYAN SOCCER has been rocked by a dope scandal which had its origins in February when dope tests on Nacional player Juan Carrasco resulted positive after a qualifying match for the Libertadores Cup against Danubio (commented in World Soccer previously). It ended in March with a three-months suspension for the player, the resignation of the club's manager-coach Juan Faccio and police investigation at the club after Carrasco declared that he "had not taken drugs willingly". Charges were brought against several club officials.**

All this no doubt had an unsettling effect on playing results and the club's poor start to the season both in the league — one point from their first four games — and the Libertadores Cup in which they finished bottom of their first round group (their worst ever performance in the Cup).

Then Eduardo Hohberg, Argentine-born leading scorer in the early 50s as Peñarol's centre-forward, took over as manager-coach of his former club's classic rivals. Several Nacional players were still heckling over contract terms and Hohberg's first decision was that nobody would play without a signed contract, which included internationals De los Santos and Pereyra. The two signed just in time for Nacional's fifth league match and it was an anemically brighter Nacional which beat Cerro 1-0 for their first league win of the season to give Hohberg a good start.

With Juan Schiaffino in charge of champions Peñarol, Uruguay's big two are now under former "glories" of Uruguayan soccer and both clubs hope that some of their magic will rub off on the teams.

In spite of their poor start, Nacional still have a chance in the very close first division race with small clubs Defensor, Danubio and Cerro making the early running, but only two points separating the top five (with a quarter of the championship gone) and fourth-placed champions Peñarol having a match in hand against Nacional (postponed when both were engaged in the Libertadores Cup).

World Cup forward Fernando Morena (Peñarol) is leading scorer again with six goals, followed by Alvarez (Defensor) five and Rodriguez (Defensor) four.

● **IN CHILE, champions Union Española top the table jointly with Green Cross after three games from which both have picked up five points.**

● **IN COLOMBIA, Independiente Santa Fe, last year's champions, have made a poor start to the season. Not only have they disappointed in the Libertadores Cup, being the underdogs in a close first round group 4 fight against Peruvian clubs, but they are a point off the foot of the table with the "Iniciacion" championship almost over.**

Such is the set-up in Colombia however, that they will still have a chance to retain their title if they do well in the "Finalisacion" championship during the second half of the season.

Velez Sarsfield goalkeeper Falcione takes the ball off River Plate forward Gonzalez's head. Reinaldi (foreground) later scored River Plate's three goals in their 3-0 victory.

ETHNIC SQUA BY AMERICA

THIRTY-ONE players have been named by "Team America", the side that will represent the United States in the American Bicentennial Soccer Cup in games against the national teams of England, Brazil and Italy. Although coach Ken Furphy has named these players after consultation with coaches around the North American Soccer League he could yet add more names depending on the situation in the next few weeks. The 31 players are :

Goalkeepers

Eric Martin (Washington Diplomats) — Former Dunfermline and Southampton goalkeeper who played 10 games for the Diplomats towards the end of the 1975 season.

Arnold Mausser (Tampa Bay) — With the Hartford Bicentennials in the NASL last season making 22 appearances. Also played twice for the United States. Formerly with the Rhode Island Oceaneers of the American Soccer League. Transferred to Tampa this year.

Bob Rigby (New York Cosmos) — A member of the Philadelphia Atoms team who won the NASL championship in 1973 and in all made 57 appearances for the club in three seasons before being transferred to the Cosmos for this season. Has played six full internationals for the U.S.

Defenders

Bobby Smith (New York Cosmos) — Like Rigby a member of the Philadelphia Atoms before being transferred to the Cosmos for this season. 63 games for Philadelphia and a member of the 1973 championship team. Has played eleven full internationals for the U.S.

Telmo Pires (Hartford Bicentennials) — Born in Portugal but now an American citizen, Telmo has played one full international for the U.S. and seven times for the amateur team. New to the NASL this year and with the Rhode Island Oceaneers of the ASL in 1975.

Bobby Moore (San Antonio Thunder) — Joined the Thunder just before the start of this season. Former England international captain and holder of the world record for full international appearances with 108. Spent most of his career with West Ham United, but more recently with Fulham.

Bob McNab (San Antonio Thunder) — Former Arsenal full back and a member of the double winning side in 1970-71. Transferred to Wolves at the end of the 1974-75 season. Has played four times for England. First season in the NASL.

Chris Lawler (Miami Toros) — Former Liverpool full back now with Portsmouth, played four times for England. In his first NASL season.

Stewart Jump (Tampa Bay) — A member of the championship winning Tampa team of last year for whom he made 24 appearances. A member of the Stoke City team that won the Football League Cup in 1972, before being transferred to Crystal Palace.

Tom Galati (Philadelphia Atoms) — Made his NASL debut in the 1974 season and has now played 30 games for Philadelphia. One international for the U.S. against Poland in 1975.

Keith Eddy (New York Cosmos) — Joined the Cosmos this year after having

Record crowd

THE MAGIC of Pele, the opening of the new Seattle Kingdome and a highly professional job of promoting soccer by the management of the Seattle Sounders over a period of two seasons, produced a record U.S. soccer crowd of 58,128 for the exhibition game between the Seattle Sounders and the New York Cosmos.

Latest in the series of covered stadiums to be built in the United States, the Kingdome is less elaborate than the Houston Astrodome or the New Orleans Superdome and it will be the home of the Seattle Sounders of the North American Soccer League this season and the site of the Soccer Bowl the league's championship game on Saturday, August 28.

Attendance at the Seattle-New York game surpassed the previous best U.S. record of 46,000 set fifty years ago for a game between an all star team from the American Soccer League and Hakoah of Vienna and played at the old Polo Grounds in New York. The previous best crowd for a North American Soccer League game was set last year for the game between the Washington Diplomats and the New York Cosmos in Washington of 35,620.

Fresh from a 5-0 win over Honda of Japan in Honolulu two nights before, where Pele scored four goals (three of them in a 15 minute spell in the second half) the Cosmos spoiled the Kingdome debut of the Sounders by winning 3-1 with Pele scoring twice and Dave Clements getting the other. Jim Gabriel scored for Seattle. The game also marked the Seattle debut of Geoff Hurst.

Scheduled

This game tended to overshadow the opening of the NASL regular season which took place five days later with the San Antonio Thunder at home to the St Louis Stars. With Bobby Moore in the defence the Thunder got off on the right foot winning 2-1 with the deciding goal coming seven minutes from the end.

Two days after this the action shifted to Vancouver where the Whitecaps with 10 Canadians in their starting line up, nine of them Canadian internationals lost 3-2 to the Portland Timber before 11,352 fans at Empire Stadium.

But the season really got under way the following day with four games scheduled. San Jose at home to Los Angeles attracted a sell out crowd of 19,807 for the visit of George Best and went on to win 2-1 on goals from U.S. internationals Mark Liveric and Paul Child. Seattle, still somewhat at sixes and sevens with players joining the team late after the British season, lost 2-0 to St Louis, a team comprised totally of North American players.

The new Dallas Tornado under coach Al Miller drew 13,929 for their home opener the largest attendance in Dallas for some time. In this game Dallas edged Washington 1-0, while San Diego, one of the new teams, beat San Antonio by the same score but waited until sudden death overtime to do it.

Sunday, April 18, marked the opening of the regular season for the New York Cosmos and their visit to Miami attracted a sell out crowd of 9,457 to the small stadium in Miami where a goal by Dave Clements from a pass by Pele was enough to give

D CHOSEN

played for Barrow, Watford and then Sheffield United. A regular member of the Sheffield United team that finished sixth place in the English First Division in the 1974-75 season.

Peter Chandler (Hartford Bicentennials) — Born in the U.S., Chandler played 14 games for Hartford in the NASL last season and has also played three times for the United States.

Jose Berico (San Antonio Thunder) — A regular member of the Thunder defence last season when he played 20 games.

Midfield

Julie Veee (San Jose Earthquakes) — Transferred to San Jose this year from the Los Angeles Aztecs for whom he played 20 games last season. Born in Hungary.

Al Trost (St Louis Stars) — A regular member of the St Louis team since 1973 and has now made 57 appearances in the NASL. Has played four full internationals for the U.S. in addition to 17 amateur internationals. Born in St Louis.

Wolfgang Sunholz (Boston Minutemen) — Born in Germany, Sunholz career has taken him to Rot-Weiss Oberhausen, Grasshoppers Zurich, Bavern Munich and Tennis Borussia before joining Boston last season where he made 23 appearances and acted as assistant coach.

Alex Skotarek (Chicago Sting) — In his second year with the Sting Alex has played two full internationals for the U.S. and made 21 NASL appearances last season.

Stewart Scullion (Tampa Bay) — One of the main reasons Tampa won the championship last season, Scullion's English career has taken him from Watford to Sheffield United and then back to Watford. 21 games for Tampa last season.

John Pedro (Rochester Lancers) — Joined Rochester this season from CUF Barreiro in Portugal.

Ramon Mifflin (New York Cosmos) — Member of the Peruvian team that reached the quarter finals of the World Cup in 1970 while with Sporting Cristal of Lima. Since then has played for Santos of Brazil before joining the Cosmos for their European tour last fall.

Hank Liotart (Seattle Sounders) — First appeared in the NASL in 1968 as a member of the now defunct Cleveland Stokers. Born in the Netherlands but now a U.S. citizen, Liotart has now played in 67 NASL games and also four times for the U.S. national team.

Dave Clements (New York Cosmos) — Joined the Cosmos this year from Everton after spells with Coventry City and Sheffield Wednesday. Well over 40 appearances for Northern Ireland.

John Mason (Los Angeles Aztecs) — New to the league this year.

in Seattle

them the victory.

In the second week of the season the Tampa Bay Rowdies with Rodney Marsh in their line-up for the first time made their mark on the season beating the Chicago Sting 2-1 before 32,632 in Tampa. The largest crowd ever to see a soccer game in Florida saw Marsh score one goal and lay on another for last year's champions. Across on the other coast of Florida the Miami Toros were losing their second home game by a 1-0 score and this time the victors were the Toronto Metros-Croatia. Gordon Fearnley recently signed from Bristol Rovers got the winner.

Auspicious

Middlesbrough players Billy Woof and Tony McAndrew made auspicious debut's for the Vancouver Whitecaps in their second game as the Canadian team beat San Diego 3-0 with Woof and McAndrew scoring along with Glen Johnson.

The St Louis Stars, San Jose Earthquakes and Dallas Tornado all won their second games. St Louis 3-1 over the new Philadelphia Atoms, San Jose 4-2 over Freddie Goodwin's Minnesota Kicks and Dallas 1-0 over San Antonio.

Most important new signing in recent days has been that of Giorgio Chinaglia by the New York Cosmos. The signing of Chinaglia has been talked about for some time with the Italian star reportedly anxious to live in the U.S. where he has a home in Englewood, New Jersey. Chinaglia, obtained from Lazio, will make the Cosmos into a formidable team and no doubt his appearance alongside Pele will boost attendances even further in some cities and give the North American Soccer League the top class image that it has long sought.

Eusebio has also returned to the NASL for another season but this time has signed for the Toronto Metros-Croatia after playing nine games last season for the Boston Minutemen. Eusebio made his Toronto debut in an exhibition game against Tottenham Hotspur on a bitterly cold evening which reduced the crowd to 6,500.

COLIN JOSE reports

Forwards

Antonio Simoes (Boston Minutemen) — Outstanding winger with Benfica and Portugal and played in four European Cup Finals plus the World Club Championships of 1961 and 1962. Switched to midfield late in his career but has been chosen for Team America as a forward. Joined Boston last year and played 19 games for them. 46 appearances for Portugal.

Kyle Rote, Jr (Dallas Tornado) — American born striker who made his first NASL appearance in 1973. Since that time he has played 62 games for Dallas in the league and in five internationals for the U.S.

Pele (New York Cosmos) — The legendary Brazilian star joined the Cosmos during the latter half of last season after attaining world renown with Santos and the Brazilian national team for whom he played 92 full internationals. Ten games for the Cosmos last season.

Rodney Marsh (Tampa Bay) — Joined Tampa this season after spells with Fulham, Queens Park Rangers and Manchester City. Nine times an England international.

John Kowalik (Chicago Sting) — Leading goalscorer in the NASL in 1968 with the old Chicago Mustangs and now back in the league for the first time since then. A former Polish international Kowalik has been playing for Nijmegan in the Netherlands recently.

Mike Flater (Minnesota Kicks) — U.S. amateur international who played for the now defunct Denver Dynamos last season making 16 appearances.

Steve David (Miami Toros) — A Trinidadian international now in his third season with Miami. Winner of the NASL scoring title last season. 44 appearances for Miami.

George Best (Los Angeles Aztecs) — Former Manchester United star in his first year with Los Angeles. 32 appearances for Northern Ireland.

Other names likely to be added are those of Giorgio Chinaglia, Tommy Smith and Mike England the Welsh international who was with the Seattle Sounders last season.

The Italians have also named their pool of players from which the team to represent Italy will be chosen.

Goalkeepers: Zoff (Juventus), Felice Pulici (Lazio), Paolo Conti (Roma), Luciano Castellini (Torino).

Defenders: Mauro Bellugi (Bologna), Bini (Inter-Milan), Cuccureddu (Juventus), Danova (Cesena), Facchetti (Inter-Milan), Gentile (Juventus), Madera (Milan), Mozzini (Torino), Peccenini (Roma), Rocca (Roma), Roggi (Fiorentina), Scirea (Juventus), Tardelli (Juventus), Vavassori (Napoli).

Midfield: Antognoni (Fiorentina), Benetti (Milan), Capello (Juventus), Pecci (Torino), Patrizio Sala (Torino), Zaccarelli (Torino).

Forwards: Bettega (Juventus), Calloni (Milan), Casarsa (Fiorentina), Caso (Fiorentina), Causio (Juventus), Graziani (Torino), Paolino Pulici (Torino), Savoldi (Napoli), Claudio Sala (Torino).

TORINO CLAIM SEVENTH TITLE

SO AT last, 27 years after their last championship, and 27 years too since the Superga air disaster wiped out their greatest team, Torino are again the champions of Italy.

They made sure of their seventh title — one was revoked because of a bribery case — even though they were held 1-1 at home by Cesena in their last match of the season.

Torino went into the match one point ahead of outgoing champions and neighbours Juventus. They needed two points to be sure of the title, for if they drew and Juventus won at Perugia, the teams would face a play-off for the title. Instead that draw — thanks to a goal by Paolino Pulici — brought them one point and one point was enough. That goal, Pulici's 21st of the season, was also enough to establish him as the league's top scorer for the second season running.

One point was enough because Juventus went down 1-0 to Perugia — hardly a big surprise after the Zebras' poor recent displays. Their run-in had not been helped by the internal problems with Pietro Anastasi. When he returned earlier from his two weeks' paid holiday he was given the cold shoulder by the other players and coach Carlo Parola had to set him a separate training schedule.

Now he can't wait to get away. Where do you think you'll be transferred? he was asked.

"I don't much mind," he replied, "as long as it's not to a team struggling against relegation. I wouldn't mind Roma or Fiorentina . . . Obviously Juventus aren't going to be stupid enough to let me go to Inter, or Milan or someone like that."

More about Anastasi's future later.

The old warhorse, Jose Altafini, now 37, found favour again with Parola during the closing matches, particularly after scoring within 60 seconds of coming on as substitute against Ascoli. That game, a home match for Juve, was in fact played at Bergamo because of the Zebras' ban after crowd trouble in the Turin derby.

Roberto Bettega put Juve ahead after 13 minutes, and Steno Gola converted a penalty to equalise soon after half-time. Altafini stepped out to bring the winner with 20 minutes to go. But, with Francesco Graziani scoring the only goal at Como — now relegated along with Ascoli and Cagliara — Torino were still one point ahead at the top.

Headlines

Five games to go . . . and Torino made that lead two points the following week. A Pulici hat-trick squeezed them to a 4-3 home win over Fiorentina while Juve were held 1-1 at Napoli before 80,000.

But that day the late headlines were all taken up with the bribes row which had blown up at Cesena where relegation-threatened 1974 champions Lazio were the visitors. More about that in a moment. Suffice it to say that the following week was the Turin-Rome crossover: Lazio home to Torino, Juventus home to Roma.

With Lazio badly needing to prove themselves to their own fans and try to restore their image a little particularly Giorgio Chinaglia who said he was off to the United States again — Torino had a hard match. And they went behind after 65 minutes when Claudio Sala put past his own goalkeeper. It looked like the season's fourth defeat for the leaders until, with a minute left, Lazio's international midfielder Luciano Re Cecconi made the same mistake.
Result: 1-1.

That was the score in Turin as well, Juventus going ahead through Bettega after 33 minutes, but a bad mistake by Dino Zoff (of all people) letting in Petrini for an equaliser half an hour later. Three matches to go. . . . Next week Juve won 4-1 at Bologna while Torino thrashed Cagliari, already doomed, 5-1 (two more for Pulici). Two matches to go. . . . Juventus narrowed the gap, beating Sampdoria 2-1 while Torino were held 0-0 at Verona.

And that left it all in the air with that last vital Sunday to come; a day of triumph for Torino president Orfeo Pianelli and his young coach, ex-Milan international defender Luigi Radice . . . and a day of torment for Juventus, dethroned champions, and their coach, Carlo Parola.

Deducted

Now those Lazio bribe allegations. Last summer they transferred two of their championship-winning players, stopper Giancarolo Oddi and midfielder Mario Frustalupi, to Cesena, and the players had gone protesting that they were still owed large bonuses. Their claims fell on deaf ears so, a few days before the match in question, they went to Cesena president Dino Manucci to demand that their bonuses be deducted from Lazio's share of the gate.

Add to this the case of 33-year-old Lamberto Boranga, the Cesena goalkeeper. When Cesena visited Lazio earlier in the season Boranga's car was damaged by Lazio fans. Boranga wrote to Lazio demanding damages, but received no reply . . .

Then, half an hour before Cesena and Lazio were due to kick off, Lazio sports director Bob Lovati went to the Cesena dressing rooms and asked to see Oddi.

He gave him a cheque for £550 for bonuses owed to Oddi, a cheque for £360 for money owed to Frustalupi, and £180 damages for Boranga. Lovati also gave Oddi some receipts to sign which had been authorised by Lazio president Umberto Lenzini.

Oddi went back, spoke to Boranga and Frustalupi and vice-president Luciano Manucci (the president's son). Manucci took all the money and the receipts and reported it all to referees' assessor Marcello Chiesa. Now

Jurion receives life suspension

JOSEF JURION, one of the greatest names in post-war Belgian soccer, has been banned for life. Jurion was, until a few weeks ago, manager of first division La Louviere whose set-up has just been found guilty of attempting to bribe Berchem players before an important match likely to affect the relegation struggle.

La Louviere will be relegated to the second division — possibly even to the third — and will have to pay a fine equivalent to 20 per cent of all ticket sales.

The club finished 15th last season and if it is decided later that the 2-0 win against Berchem was invalid, then the readjustment of the final table will see La Louviere relegated anyway to the second division. In that case the penalty for the bribes case will see them relegated down to division three!

Jurion was the bespectacled star who made his name with Anderlecht first as a right winger in the late fifties, then moved into midfield to captain his club and country. It was he who scored the famous goal which beat Real Madrid in the 1962-63 Champions' Cup first round, and it was he whose midfield experience had much to do with the rise of Paul van Himst.

Jurion left Anderlecht after a disagreement with Constant ven den Stock in the late sixties and began his managerial career in the Belgian second division.

Ironic that when Jurion's former club should achieve their greatest triumph — winning the Cup Winners' Cup — he should be kicked out of the game in ignominy.

ITALY

by Keir Radnedge

the matter has gone to the federation. And as, even Lazio's fans admit: "We owed the money, fair enough — but to hand it over half an hour before a vital relegation game . . ."

Then, of course, there's been Chinaglia. Last summer he caused a stir when he flew to New York and said he wasn't coming back. Lazio persuaded him to return eventually, but he agreed on condition that he could fly to the States as often as possible to see his family (his wife is American). Now New York Cosmos had come up with a concrete £200,000 transfer offer and Chinaglia was ready to go. At first he said: "I'll stay until the end of the season to keep Lazio up." Now, totally fed up, he announced: "Next week we play Torino. After that game I'm going to the States and I wont be coming back this time." Chinaglia was as good as his word. Hours after the 1-1 draw with Torino he was on his way to New York to a £400,000 three-year contract with Cosmos, leaving Lazio to sink or swim in his wake.

Inquiry

And though officially they avoided relegation, that bribes inquiry could still see them starting next season in *Serie B*. . . . .

Neighbours Roma haven't finished the season in a shower of glory either. Ex-Milan striker Pierino Prati, still a regretted loss to many AC fans, will be on the move after speaking out against his team-mates and manager Nils Liedholm.

Prati was fined by the club and dropped — a belated move since he's hardly looked fit or worth his place for a long time. Other squabbles have been continuing. Team captain Franco Cordova criticised the policy of president Gaetano Anzalone and World Cup veteran Picchio de Sisti — why didn't he stay with Fiorentina? — says the atmosphere inside the club is so bad he's thinking of packing up soccer altogether.

Every other day the newspapers touch off stories that Liedholm is staying/going and it's known that several directors envy Napoli the blunt, if troublesome, Brazilian, Luis Vinicio.

Napoli, too, are in turmoil. This season, with £1.2 million Beppe Savoldi, all their fans expected them to take the league. Instead they've never been in the hunt and Savoldi's future is far from certain. Senior Napoli officials including former Bologna and Italy sweeper Franco Janich must appear before the federation over claims that the club tried to set up a swap with Juventus, Anastasi for Savoldi.

Under league rules no transfer dealings or negotiations can be carried out until the season is over. Juve were only narrowly pipped for Savoldi last summer so it'll be interesting to see what happens next. Napoli at least had a good 3-1 win over Inter to cushion the end of season blues.

"That must be our worst performance ever," said Inter president Ivanoe Fraizzoli. It's a phrase he fond of. A week or two later however Inter went down 2-0 to Ascoli and he kept his words to himself but fined the players heavily instead.

The fines varied according to signing-on fees, so that meant the heaviest fine falling on captain Sandro Mazzola, now Fraizzoli's colleague on the board!

Incidentally, Mario Corso is now back with Inter. He's recovered sufficiently from his third broken leg to join the youth coaching staff and clearly from the way he was swept into conference by Mazzola, his influence could be vital in the years ahead.

It seems that manager Beppe Chiappella will stay another year, though rivals AC Milan may not be maintaining the status quo. Gianni Rivera seems to be having trouble sorting everyone out around new figurehead president Vittorio Duina. Major problem is putting Nereo Rocco out to grass without hurting his feelings.

Executive

It seems Rocco will become special adviser to the president, but just to keep him in place Rivera will also be on the executive committee. Rocco was most upset when first news came that Rivera wanted Cesena coach Pippo Marchioro as new coach.

"Who's Marchioro?" stormed Rocco. "I've never heard of him. So he used to play for Milan's youth teams. So what. So did hundreds of others." A few days later Marchioro, neatly sidestepping all the pointed questions, brought his team to San Siro for a league match which Milan won 2-1. Rivera was the best player on the field, showing no effect from the much publicised and over dramatised disagreements with skipper Romeo Benetti (over the captaincy), striker Luciano Chiarugi (over a possible transfer) and spearhead Egidio Calloni (over who takes penalties).

Strangely the one man who has kept his cool is the one whose position looks most in danger — trainer Giovanni Trapattoni.

Benetti incidentally scored twice in the 2-1 win against Fiorentina, who had Claudio Merlo sent off. That means more disciplinary trouble for Fiorentina not long after their 4-1 home win over Como had been turned into a 2-0 defeat *a tavolino* because of a steel nut which knocked out Como's penalty-taker goalkeeper Antonio Rigamonti just on half-time.

UEFA BAN REAL MADRID

UEFA'S decision to ban Real Madrid from Europe for one Season because of the lone drunk's attack on Erich Linemayr and Gerd Müller has provoked paroxysms in Spain.

There have been mutterings of a 'conspiracy' somehow alleged to be sinisterly linked to the German disappointment over Leo van der Kroft's refereeing of the tie with Borussia MG.

Then there have been the allegations of sour grapes . . . then the harking back to the penalties imposed on Atletico Madrid after the Parkhead travesty. All very sad. But in no way as sad as the fact that the club involved are probably the world's most famous, with that tremendous reputation for hospitality and good manners.

There had been trouble before — when Ipswich were in Madrid a couple of years ago. Again one fan was involved. One is tempted to say that — at least — if Leeds are banned for a couple of years because of the boorish behaviour of hundreds, then Madrid's punishment is like taking the proverbial sledgehammer to crack the proverbial nut.

In these days when the workers, the midfield kickers and the tactical-mania managers are robbing the game of its character and its romance, the Champions' Cup is the last competition which can bear to be without the glamour of that one name, Real Madrid.

Let's hope UEFA see the light of day when they hear Madrid's appeal at the end of June . . . for all our sakes.

K.R.

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ARGENTINA GO LEVEL WITH BRAZIL

by Eric Weil

ARGENTINA WERE left as joint leaders with Brazil after another round of Atlantic Cup matches in which Argentina beat Uruguay 4-1 in Buenos Aires while Brazil were held 1-1 by Paraguay in Asunción.

Argentina, obviously a better team after their five-match European tour, played some of the best soccer seen for a long time in front of their home crowd to beat Uruguay. The victory put them level with Brazil at the top of the table at the halfway stage of the tournament as it brought them an extra bonus point for winning by more than a two goal margin — the first team to do so in this year's tournament. (The match also counted for the Lipton Cup between the two countries).

After only 11 minutes, good attacking play forced Uruguay to concede a penalty, but Corbo turned Kempes' shot for a corner. But 10 minutes later Kempes made amends when he put Argentina one up. Argentina took the upper hand after 20 minutes and were always more dangerous in spite of Uruguay's close marking.

Brilliant and open attacks brought two quick goals early in the second half from Luque and Kempes. Later Gatti was brought to some good saves and Pereira netted Uruguay's only goal on one of the few occasions he got through. Scotta ended the scoring for Argentina with a hard shot from close in three minutes from the end.

Equalised

Brazil dropped their first point after playing better and commanding the midfield, but they caused little impression on a tight Paraguayan defence. Eneas put Brazil ahead after 31 minutes and Aquino equalised from the penalty spot seven minutes later.

Argentina's easy win (and their recent successes against the Soviet Union and Poland on their European tour) can be attributed to coach Menotti's idea of letting his players show their skills — the true South American method — without binding them too much to a tactical plan and always with attack in mind.

The team is relatively inexperienced as World Cup forward Kempes is the "veteran" with 23 caps, followed by captain Carascosa (17) and it holds promise for the future if it can remain settled — avoiding the frequent management changes and exodus of players to foreign clubs.

The 18-player squad was polled on their views about going to play abroad — seven said they would go today if the right offer came along, seven said they would rather stay to play in the World Cup, three were undecided and one said he would stay if he were sure of a World Cup place.

Meanwhile the semi finals of the Libertadores Cup have been reached (with one play-off pending) with virtually the same countries represented as last year.

Cup holders Independiente of Argentina (who had a bye into the semi finals) and Cruzeiro (Brazil) are there again and so will Liga Deportiva Universitaria of Equador be if they win the play-off against Ecuador's Deportivo Cuenca. Peñarol (Uruguay) has replaced Union Española (Chile) by the closest of margins, Alianza Lima represent Peru instead of Universitario, while River Plate represent Argentina instead of Rosario Central.

Argentina's champions, River Plate, walked through group one more easily than the final one-point margin suggests as they lost only their last match (1-0 away to Estudiantes of Argentina) when already qualified and they fielded a weak team. River were helped by Estudiantes dropping an away point earlier to Portuguesa the best team to come out of Venezuela so far (although with a good sprinkling of foreigners in their line up). Cabezas, a newcomer with Estudiantes, was the group's leading scorer with six.

Domestic

River Plate must be considered strong candidates for the Cup, even though they are not at their best in domestic competition at the moment, although a point from the top of the table. Likewise, Independiente are not in top form, but doing well in this season's low standard first division. Apart from that, they always pull out something extra for the Cup.

Group 2 provided the only serious incident. The superiority of Ecuador's teams over their Bolivian rivals was pronounced and this seemed too much to take for home fans when Ecuador's champs, Liga Deportiva Universitaria, were awarded a penalty after 15 minutes versus Bolivian champions Guabira. It was converted, Bolivian fans erupted and the referee suspended the match for his own safety and that of LDU players.

LDU were later awarded the points and had yet to play off at press time with Ecuador's vice-champions, Deportivo Cuenca for a semi final place. (Goals were not taken into account in this instance because of the unfinished match.) Two Argentine forwards hit the headlines — Juan Perez hit all four in LDU's 4-0 home win over Guabira and Cuenca's Licciardi was the group's leading scorer with six . . . while the record score for this season's tournament is Bolivar's 7-1 thrashing of champions Guabira, but the result was of no consequence.

The manifest superiority of Brazilian teams over Paraguayan rivals also spoilt group 3 which was decided long before the end in favour of Cruzeiro, thanks to their beating Brazil's Internacional twice (5-4 and 2-0).

Engaged

Cruzeiro, whose players (like Internacional's) were not called up for international duty while they were engaged in the Cup, finished as top first round scorers with 20 goals — Jairzinho getting eight.

Peru's champions, Alianza Lima, deservedly won group 4 and vice-champions Alfonso Ugarte, a modest team from Puno and newcomers to the competition, surprised by finishing joint second. Puno's altitude may have had something to do with it, but they also drew two of their three away games. Colombian champions, Independiente Santa Fe, disappointed to finish bottom.

Group 5, between Uruguay's and Chile's top teams, produced the closest fight as expected — and goals decided, with the position in doubt until the last kick of the last match. Peñarol (Uruguay) needed to win by at least two goals at home against Union Española (Chile) to catch them up on points and take first place on goal difference. The Uruguayan champions started off with a bang and scored twice in 25 minutes. In the second half the Chilean champs were on top, but couldn't beat top form Corbo even once — which would have been enough to put them into the semi final again.

FIFA CONFIRMS AGAIN

FIFA's executive committee met in Rio de Janeiro to ratify once more that the 1978 World Cup would definitely be held in Argentina after it had studied reports from two delegations which had visited that country earlier in the year.

News from Hungary - by Leslie Vernon

A typical week in life of a footballer

AT NO extra cost to our dear readers, I herewith generously present a diary of a typical week in the hectic life of present-day Hungarian football.

Monday. The first-leg of the Cup semi-finals. Since the F.A. decided that one-match Cup ties are of no real value in evaluating the respective merits of the combatants, each round has been arranged on the home and away basis. Ferencvaros won 2-0 at Kaposvar with two goals by Nyilasi, but they lost Ebedli who was sent-off in the 53rd minute for saying nasty things to referee Somlai. Turai, Kaposvar's outside-right, was also dismissed for kicking Vizzko (the ball was elsewhere at the time). Ebedli was subsequently banned for three matches — a further blow to Fradi's championship hopes.

The other semi also ended in a surprise away victory. MTK-VM defeated Honved 4-2 at Kispest, playing some excellent football and relying on deadly counter attacking moves. Goals: Kunszt 2, Borso 2 — Kozma, Weimper.

Tuesday. The second-leg of the semi-finals: Ferencvaros fielded their strongest side at home despite their two goals' advantage, and won comfortably 5-2 against the struggling Kaposvar. Tibor Nyilasi got two more goals, Balint, Szabo and Pusztai scored the others. Borso and Karasz netted for the visitors. Honved were forced to attack in order to retrieve their deficit at MTK-VM, but the still counterpunching blue-and-whites scored first through Borso. Kozma equalized, and Palicsko, son of their former manager, put through his own goal. The 2-1 Honved win wasn't enough, MTK-VM won on a 5-4 aggregate.

Newcomers

Wednesday. Lajos Baroti announces his national squads for the A. and B. internationals against Switzerland. He doesn't pick any Fradi or MTK-VM players because of the Cup Final, and there are three newcomers — Kerekes, Kereki, and the Vasas striker, Istvan Kovacs, in the senior squad.

Thursday. The team travel to Lausanne, where they will line-up — L. Kovacs — J. Nagy, Kerekes, Kereki, Kantor — J. Kovacs, Fazekas, Csongradi — Majer, I. Kovacs, L. Nagy.

Friday. Hungary beat Switzerland 1-0, but as everybody beats Switzerland 1-0 these days, there is nothing to get excited about. Fazekas got the goal in the 43rd minute, when Majer, a talented youngster from Videoton, tricked two defenders on the right, and his cross was converted by the experienced Dozsa forward. In the 67th minute, Torok came on for J. Nagy and A. Toth for Laszlo Nagy. Switzerland, as usual, were unlucky not to score — Risi headed over the deserted Hungarian goal from five yards.

Although the standard of football was just about average in this game, Baroti was satisfied. Several of the younger players gave a good account of themselves, and he has now a wider choice. The established internationals won't be discarded, but not unlike Don Revie, Baroti must also have a settled side by mid-summer in order to tackle the World Cup qualifying matches.

Saturday. In an entertaining double-header, Hungary "B" beat the Swiss second team 3-2. Cornioley put the visitors ahead in the 4th minute, Gass equalized from a penalty in the 11th, and then scored again in the 33rd minute. Demarmels made it 2-2 two minutes later. Torocsik got the winner with an excellent shot in the 83rd minute. Hungary "B": Vereb — Godan, Baranyi, Komjati, J. Toth — Gass, Csapo, Zombori — Karalyol, Torocsik, Hauser. Subs: Rothermel, Fekete, L. Horvath. After this reasonably appetizing "hors d'ouvre" came the 1976 Cup Final in the sparsely populated Nepstadion — 15,000. Ferencvaros, the 12 times winners v MTK-VM, whose name appears 9 times on the trophy.

Positions

In addition, these are the only two Hungarian clubs who have reached a Cup Winners Cup Final, and their clashes are labelled "derby" irrespective of relative strength or league positions. I myself well remember games between these two pre-war giants, featuring such players as clown Szabo in goal, Wudi Muller, the Austrian ball artist, King of the Dribble, Maty Csch and the Sarosi brothers, "Professor" Lazar, Rudas, the fastest full-back of this era, and, of course, many others.

The Final, I am glad to say, was an excellent match. "Fradi" won 1-0, but they can thank their lucky stars for the contributions of goalkeeper Hajdu and referee Hamori. (There was once a Ferencvaros player called Hamori. Is this fellow the same or only a close relation?) Hajdu made some brilliant saves in the first half, and in the 20th minute, a Pusztai centre went to Szabo, who scored from 8 yards with a low shot.

In the 89th minute, the ball bounced on the hand of Rab inside the penalty box, but the ref. denied the obvious penalty to MTK-VM. Kiss protested a little too vigorously and was sent-off. After the final whistle, Csetenyi also had a few ill-chosen words to say to the officials, who told him that he was technically dismissed as well.

Dalnoki, Fradi's manager, said: "A difficult victory. We were perhaps lucky to collect the Cup. I hope that now that we are definitely in Europe, the boys will be able to relax and play their natural game in the league".

Predicted

A busy week, you must admit, and a dramatic change of pace for the Hungarians. As I so astutely predicted last month, too much football is beginning to take its inevitable toll. The first victims were Ferencvaros, who lost their commanding lead on top of the table. Two consecutive defeats (Raba-Eto 2-4, Vasas 2-3) pushed them into second place behind the vigorous provincial outfit, Videoton, and Dozsa are still in with a shout — only three points adrift of the leading pair, who are separated by goal difference. While Videoton registered an astonishing 3-0 away win at MTK-VM, the outcome of yet another "double-header" at the "Nep" — this time watched by 50,000, has transformed the league table.

First Dozsa beat Honved 1-0 with a gift own goal, then the ever improving Vasas won the best match of the season v Fradi 3-2 — all the goals coming in the first-half. In fact, Videoton collected 16 points in the nine rounds completed in the spring half of the season, Vasas, Fradi and Dozsa got 12 each. On the "real" table, Szeged are seven points behind the field, and there are only three points between eight other clubs in the relegation zone. Weimper (Honved) tops the scoring chart with 16, followed by Karsai on 12 and Fazekas on 11. Lajos Kocsis, the tricky Honved midfielder, got 10 league goals, and the four players on nine are Farkas (Haladas), I. Kovacs, Varadi, and Nyilasi, who deserves to have the last word — at least in this article.

FOUL-GOOD OR EVIL?

FOUL MAGAZINE have sent me their volume publication and asked me to review it in WORLD SOCCER. Since it consists largely of extracts from the magazine, there is little to add to what I have already said, though having it, so to speak in concentrated form serves to concentrate and emphasise one's own previous impression.

True, it would be unfair to level at an annual and its genus the charge that "inside" stories are not being gathered, which was one of the principal weaknesses of the magazine. As against that, its basic nihilism, its nagging disingeniousness, stand out strong. There is the same aura of free floating bitchery, nasty young men on the make, wanting it both ways; to savage the Press and yet finally be part of it. By the same token, I have no objection to being lampooned, except — again, a question of *FOUL'S* wanting it both ways — by people who have previously been coming to me begging for advice and help.

There *is*, as I have said before, a place for a magazine such as *FOUL*, most of all when it publishes such amusing parodies as that of the old LEAGUE REVIEW, such splendid investigatory articles as that on the Ibrox disaster. But there's no true indication of where it and its disappointingly limp Editors stand; the free floating malice, the pervasive envy, see to that. How easy it is to be generically malicious; so much easier than having the strength and integrity, as an Editor, to discriminate.

How easy would it be for one now, for example, to caricature *FOUL'S* resident satirist as a spiteful, fat old Queen, battening on football though he has no comprehension of or feeling for it, revenging Cambridge failures and current frustrations. Much more pleasant and productive to say that there is a genuine humorous talent which needs only proper direction to succeed.

The truth about *FOUL*, as I've implied, is that it has no genuine point of view, falling prey to the inherent danger of satire, that if you attack everything, you end by attacking nothing. Ultimately, then, the impression is less one of integrity than one of spite; the motives of *FOUL*, its Editors, its chief contributors, themselves become suspect; they seem less crusaders than spoiled adolescents, howling for what they haven't got, and petulantly want.

So, failed by *FOUL*, we wait for *SON OF FOUL*. Perhaps it will come from Oxford, not from Cambridge.

Chinaglia coup for Clive Toye

GIORGIO CHINAGLIA is, of course, a New York Cosmo now, a remarkable if somewhat fortunate coup for Clive Toye, the former *Daily Express* journalist, and the New York soccer club. Chinaglia is in fact the first major, fully active star (with deference to an autumnal Pele) to be transferred to an American League team. That he will draw the New York Italians in their droves is axiomatic. That Ken Furphy, the manager of the New York Cosmos, has some hot times ahead of him seems, alas, equally inevitable.

I know and like Chinaglia, but the manner of his leaving Lazio was thoroughly displeasing, and led to a dignified and comprehensive rebuke from his former Lazio team mate Nello Governato, now an interesting writer on *TUTTOSPORT* of Turin. Governato pointed out that Chinaglia had been thoroughly spoilt and indulged at Lazio, even when, a few seasons ago, he put his fist through a window of the club salon, even when, last summer, he refused to come back from America and barely gave the club's visiting representatives the time of day. To the very last, he showed minimal respect for the club's supporters — the club itself, as we know, deserves very little, being a bastion of foolish paternalism and intermittent brutality.

Clause

It is said that a penalty clause in Lazio's contract with the Cosmos laid down that they would forefeit some £80,000 if Chinaglia didn't reach New York by the end of April. This clearly caught Lazio between the devil and the deep blue sea. If Chinaglia stayed, they didn't get the money. If he went, they were severely impeded in their battle to stay in the First Division, Serie A, and might have to pay a large fine to the League for not putting out their best available teams.

They were already in trouble for the fiasco of Cesena. It seems almost incredible that a club could behave with such total fatuity. Before the League game there, a vital one for Lazio, the amiable Roberto Lovati, their former goalkeeper, walked into the Cesena dressing-room and presented cheques to three Cesena players; some £500 to Oddi, that friendly fellow who kicked poor David Johnson so viciously when Lazio played the UEFA Cup at Ipswich, rather less than half that to Frustalupi, who chased an Ipswich player the length of the field after they'd scored from a penalty in the return game, and over £200 to Borango, the poet-goalkeeper of the Cesena side, for damage suffered by his car early the previous January, when it was assailed by Lazio fans.

Cesena sensibly took the precaution of reporting all this to the referee, who passed it on to the representative of the League, so that in due course an investigation was set on foot at Coverciano where the Italian FA have their Technical Centre (presided over, let it be said, by our friend Italo Allodi at some £50,000 a year, though he did not preside over the Cesena Affair).

Lazio opened their eyes wide and proclaimed the most child like innocence. It had all, they insisted, been done in the best possible faith. Oddi and Frustalupi had been owed bonus money for their UEFA Cup appearances. And Borango? Surely there was no legal obligation there? Well, said Lovati, Lazio didn't want to be mean. After all, it was their fans, or a lunatic element among them who had damaged Borango's car.

I am sorry to say anyone I like as much as Lovati caught up in such a ridiculous business. Perhaps while they are at the Centro Tecnico, Lazio's officials could take some advice from the appropriate quarter of how to bring such things off without advising the world about them.

Temptation

THE MESSIANIC tendency, the temptation to look for saviours, must be resisted at this moment when English football is in so shaky a state. Czechoslovakia's win against Russia in Bratislava made our own failure there somewhat less wounding in retrospect — though my belief remains that with decent selection and tactics, it need not have been a failure at all — but the lack of true flair, or of players who can provide it when you need it, remains paramount.

That is why the 19-year-old David Fairclough has been such an exciting arrival at the end of an otherwise depressing season; even Manchester United, after all, fell apart at the last, and laid down there arms before a Southampton side which was gallant

Looking at Soccer with Brian Glanville

rather than distinguished. Duncan McKenzie, after tantalising those of us who admire him, sadly lost form at the end of the season, just at the moment when one hoped he would be playing for England; Bowles continued his strange career of alternating brilliance and irresponsibility. There was plainly no picking him for England again, for all his splendid talent.

Fairclough can scarcely yet be compared with Bowles, but as John Toshack said to me in Zagreb — only a few days, ironically, before he was pulled off against Bruges while Fairclough stayed on — he is a breath of fresh air. Fairclough also greatly impressed the watching Azelio Vicini when he saw him against Bruges at Anfield.

Control

"After Keegan," the Italian Under 23 manager said to me, "he was the most interesting player in the Liverpool team. He has a splendid burst of speed." Indeed he has; allied to fine close control, and a marvellously refreshing ability to do the kind of thing which nowadays is discouraged from very school level; take players on, go it alone and score goals.

Colleagues of mine such as Ken Jones, himself once a professional footballer, insist that there is little a Don Revie can do when the football is being "coached" out of boys while they are still at school. He has a strong point and I know exactly what he means, having watched a London Under 15 Final this season in which, Heaven help us, the beaten team was playing with a sweeper at the back and only two men (or boys) up.

It was good to see them lose to a team which scorned such excessive caution. Yet there is also the question of leading from the top, changing things by example. In Ramsey's grey days, wingers and wing play were discouraged because players knew there was no place for them in the England team. Give the Faircloughs of our game, those few that there are, their chance and their head, and a hundred flowers might bloom. It is surely worth trying.

Unusual results in Jersey

by Paul Radford

SOCCER MAY be a strange game but it would be a stranger than usual season if Rangers were to come down from Glasgow to lift the F.A. Cup at Wembley while on the same day Liverpool were beating Celtic to win the Scottish Cup.

A rather unlikely scenario, but that sort of thing really happens in the Channel Islands. Jersey club, St Peter's, this season had the mortification of losing the Jersey cup final, knon as the Wheway Cup, 4-2 to Vale Recreation, who just happened to be champions of Guernsey!

But St Peter's repaired Jersey pride by travelling to the neighbouring island for the Guernsey Cup Final (the Jeremie Cup) and winning on penalties against Guernsey club Northerners after a 1-1 draw.

Jersey and Guernsey traditionally invite a number of clubs from the other island to take part in the major cup competitions and it's by no means unusual for the "guests" to abuse local hospitality and lift the trophy, though it's rare for such a thing to happen in both islands in the same season.

The major surprise in all this was that Vale Recreation were knocked out of the Jeremie Cup by Northerners in the semi-finals after carrying all before them in Channel Islands soccer over the past year.

Undefeated in the Guernsey league which they won in a nine-point canter. Vale Recreation also gained two more local cups, the Stranger and Le Vallee trophies, as well as the Wheway Cup and, most important of all, the Upton Park trophy.

"The Upton", as it is called, is played for by the respective champions of Guernsey and Jersey, and this year Vale Recreation and Jersey's First Tower United lined-up against each other for the fourth consecutive season, the Guernsey club winning 2-0 without seeming to break sweat to become undisputed champions of Channel Islands soccer.

Their victory stretched Guernsey's lead in the history of "The Upton" to 30-26.

The main event of the year, the Muratti trophy, between island selections was also the forgone conclusion of the year — or so the pundits said.

With two successive wins behind them Guernsey were the hottest favourite for years, even though the game was to to be played in Jersey. It all seemed to be running to form when the green shirts of Guernsey took an early lead and Jersey captain Carter went off injured in the first half.

But, as Southampton know, it's a good year for underdogs and the reds fought back to equalise and then snatched two late goals for a shock 3-1 victory. Jersey's win also means that the two islands are now level on 29 Muratti victories each with tiny neighbour Alderney having one win to its credit.

It was, however, a notable year for Alderney as the island, which has a population of less than two thousand, at last acquired a respectable soccer pitch! The whole island turned out to watch the Muratti semi-final with Guernsey, the first to be played on Alderney soil. But it was a historic occasion which the Guernsey side spoiled by winning 5-0.

It was also the year in which sponsorship came to the islands from the cigarette company Rothmans who injected the local leagues with cash which it is hoped will result in much-needed improvements in training facilities. The standard of play showed no real improvement but Rothmans system of sportsmanship points did provide a drastic reduction in bookings and sendings-off. Perhaps the English Football League should look into the merits of the idea.

Rothmans also provided a useful service in persuading Jersey's two rival Saturday leagues to merge into the Jersey Combination League, giving new stimulus to the island's soccer.

GUERNSEY — ROTHMANS PRIAULX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Vale Rec	21	19	2	0	91	21	59
2. St Martin's	21	16	2	3	69	17	50
3. Belgraves	21	11	2	8	54	39	35
4. North	21	10	4	7	45	42	34
5. Rangers	21	6	5	10	36	46	23
6. Sylvans	21	5	6	10	39	63	21
7. Centrals	21	2	3	16	22	82	9
8. Rovers	21	2	2	17	21	67	8

NB — Three points awarded for a victory.

International Microscope

LUXEMBOURG - by Eric Batty

RECORD HAS GOT BETTER

	P	W	D	L	Goals F	Goals A
Afghanistan	1	1	0	0	6	0
Austria	4	0	0	4	3	18
Belgium	9	1	0	8	10	33
Bulgaria	2	0	0	2	2	5
Canada	1	0	0	1	0	2
Czechoslovakia	2	0	0	2	0	7
Denmark	4	0	2	2	6	11
Egypt	1	0	1	0	1	1
England	3	0	0	3	3	18
Finland	1	1	0	0	3	0
France	10	1	0	9	10	48
Germany, East	2	0	0	2	1	18
Germany, West	6	0	0	6	2	29
Holland	12	2	1	9	13	48
Hungary	2	0	0	2	3	12
Ireland, Republic	3	0	0	3	1	10
Italy	3	0	0	3	0	11
Malta	1	0	1	0	1	1
Mexico	1	1	0	0	2	1
Norway	6	2	1	3	7	11
Poland	4	0	1	3	2	17
Portugal	2	1	0	1	4	8
Scotland	1	0	0	1	0	6
Switzerland	4	0	0	4	4	10
Turkey	2	1	0	1	2	3
U.S.S.R.	1	0	0	1	1	3
Wales	2	0	0	2	1	8
Yugoslavia	5	0	1	4	4	16
Totals	95	11	8	76	92	355

LUXEMBOURG'S CONTRIBUTION to world football has inevitably been minimal but, particularly in recent years, recognising that a total population of only 337,000 doesn't give the Principality a prayer, there has been a distinct improvement.

In the 1960's the Luxembourg FA tried to improve matters by engaging a foreign coach, and picked on the former Austrian international Ernst Melchior who improved matters slightly. Unhappily for Luxembourg, they couldn't afford to match the financial offers Melchior received from club sides when his contract ended, and they lost him. The current manager Gilbert Legrand is doing his second stint in charge. Now 41 years old, he is a Frenchman but has been the manager of Luxembourg's top club Jeunesse Esch for a longish time and knows the people and the Luxembourg players well.

In 1974, Legrand took a big step forward when several players (as usual) did not turn up in answer to a call to train with the other members of the national squad. Legrand has problems enough in this respect, for many of his key players are abroad, beyond his control, and he must be satisfied if they are released by their French, Belgian and German clubs in time for each game.

But this time Legrand took a firm stand and persuaded the Luxembourg FA to act. Letters were sent out demanding to know why the absent players had not attended and the outcome was that several players — stars by Luxembourg standards — found themselves suspended from playing in four Luxembourg First Division matches.

General interest

If Luxembourg have achieved little of note in the international arena it is only to be expected, but their record at this time is of general interest because they will soon be playing both Italy and England in vital World Cup qualifying matches that could determine who goes to Argentina in 1978.

On paper, both Italy and England should take four points from their games with Luxembourg without any difficulty, but though Legrand uses modern defensive tactics that inevitably spoil the games for spectators, they have obtained several interesting results in the last two or three years.

For example in November, 1973, Luxembourg beat Norway 2-1 admittedly before a crowd of only 1,500 and little more than a year earlier they had surprised everyone by beating Turkey 2-0 when their "foreigners' Gilbert Dussier and Nico Braun each scored a goal.

In their last 15 games, Luxembourg have won two and lost 13 but those home wins over Norway and Turkey should serve as a warning to the unwary.

Other good performances in this period were two very narrow 0-1 defeats against Switzerland (whom England only just managed to beat 2-1 last season) and holding Hungary to 2-4 ... after giving them a fright. Luxembourg also must have worried Austria last season in a European championship qualifying round game when, in Luxembourg, Nico Braun gave them a 12th minute lead that the Austrians, who went on to win 2-1, couldn't cancel out until the 59th minute. True, England have an excellent record against Luxembourg beating them away in 1927 by 5-2 and hammering them 9-0 in Luxembourg in a qualifying match for the 1962 World Cup ... then being held at Highbury to a much more respectable 4-1.

Strangely, Finland are of course in the same group with England and Italy and Finland are one of only two serious football countries that Luxembourg have a positive record against, meeting them only once and winning 3-0. At the moment with the Finns making considerable progress it seems **inevitable that Luxembourg will end up with the wooden spoon** in this group, but they have done enough in recent years to make everyone take them seriously on their own ground.

Central defender

The game in Luxembourg struggles under really severe handicaps. For example Jeunesse Esch have all their players (and even their club chairman) working in the steel works that over-shadows their 6,000 capacity ground. Working round the clock in three shifts, the club has to lay on three training **sessions a day to accommodate everyone.**

Certainly, Luxembourg are going to play very defensively, even at home, against England, Italy and Finland. Almost certainly they will retain their best ever player, the most capped Luxembourg player of all time, Louis Pilot, the central defender who is now 36 and has spent most of his career as a professional in Belgium.

With France, Belgium and West Germany probably playing the same days, there seems no reason why Legrand shouldn't have a free choice, barring injuries. If Nico Braun and Fernand Jeits come back from France; if midfield general Paul Phillip and libero Pilot are released by their Belgian clubs and if West German Division II side Roehling Volkingen release Gilbert Dussier, then anyone who goes to Luxembourg with the wrong attitude could get a nasty shock.

News from Switzerland ...by Arthur Rotmil

Self-criticism is resurrected

THE WAVE of optimism which swept Switzerland's footballing fraternity following the favourable World Cup draw has given way to the old nagging doubts and self criticism, following a tepid display by the national team and the poor football served up by the country's top clubs in the cup final.

In a friendly match in Glasgow the Swiss lost to Scotland only by 1-0, but it was the manner of their performance which has spread a gloom among the fans there. Admittedly, there was nothing at stake and equally the Swiss missed four players through injury: Pfister, Scheiwiler, Schneeberger and Trinchero.

Yet, apart from the defence, which earned the note "satisfactory", there was little to cheer about the midfield men and even less to enthuse about when analysing the strikers. Sadly the recent scoring sensation, Peter Risi, failed disappointingly to make any sort of impact on the opposing defence.

But the Scots too had been decimated by injury and withdrawals, having lost eight men from Willie Ormond's original selection of 18. Swiss hopes that Risi would exploit the absence of such experienced stoppers as Holton, McQueen and Jackson proved futile.

Striker

Risi, the 25-year-old striker from FC Zurich, who had hit five goals in the 5-3 League win over Chênois three weeks earlier, and another four goals (v. Sion) just before the international, is poised to become Switzerland's highest ever League scorer. After 20 games Risi was topping the championship scorers list with 26 goals and that was 14 goals ahead of the next best striker Santrac (Grasshoppers), who had got just 12!

But at Hampden Park Risi barely got a look-in and clearly one scoring chance in 90 minutes play is not a recommendation for a man who with his total (26, as I write), is in line for the coveted annual European "Golden Boot" award — presented by the German sports equipment firm "adidas" to the highest goal scorer in any European domestic League.

The Swiss national manager René Hüssy could hardly conceal his disappointment at his mediocre display which holds out little hope for the immediate future. Switzerland were due to play five internationals before their first World Cup qualifying tie away to Norway, on September 8. Following the Scottish fixture the Helvetians were scheduled to meet Hungary and Poland at home; Finland and Denmark away.

Now there are voices also among the experts, demanding the return to the side of the veteran Karl Odermatt, the recently "retired" Köbi Kuhn and the reinstatement of the "enfant terrible" of Swiss football, Pierre-André Chapuisat. This 28-year-old extremely gifted footballer, one of the technically most skilled players this country has produced, was recently fired by Lausanne Sports.

His aggressive attitude on and off the field, lack of understanding with team mates and management alike, and generally arrogant behaviour, have upset the club who were apparently glad to get rid of him. But champions FC Zurich stepped in instantly and signed this controversial character who on his day can really play and as a *libero* has no peer in the country.

Zurich are incidentally chasing this magnificent treble: Having already won the Cup, they hope to take the League Cup and keep the championship title. It is obvious that FCZ have established themselves as a dominant force in Swiss football, even if the Cup final victory over Servette Geneva was rather disappointingly achieved.

After their Yugoslav-born ace striker Ilja Katic scored as early as the ninth minute, the Zürcher "shut" the game denying the Servettiens space and time and frustrating their efforts with "anti-football". Before a crowd of 46,000 at the Wankdorf stadium in Berne, FCZ demonstrated "modern" methods by freezing the game, not running any risks and determined to hold on to that one-goal advantage.

In the face of such destructive tactics Servette were powerless to break down Zurich's re-inforced defence and thus the game petered out much to the boundless disenchantment of the masses. It was Zurich's fifth Cup win in their fifth final. But this was an appearance everybody present will want to forget. Rarely has the Swiss Press been so unanimous, in their condemnation of this cup final, as this time!

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David Fairclough, pictured playing for Liverpool against Manchester City.

Fairclough could be headline stealer . . .

DAVID FAIRCLOUGH will be busily emphasising the local-boy-makes-good slant, next season, with every Anfielder expecting this tearaway teenager to rival even Kevin Keegan as the national headline stealer.

When you are only 19 that's a terrific prospect, though it has to be remembered that the early reference of a mere handful of first team games, last winter, needs to be further implemented for more tempered judgement.

Yet nothing could ever take away from this dyed-in-the-red enthusiast the glory of personal displays in the closing weeks of the championship campaign, when his goals won the points that kept Liverpool on course so long.

Where was I? Oh, yes. It's the Fairclough story, this time. And now we'll trace a new route to the top, and one that any soccer travel agency would willingly recommend while admitting it's toughness.

In the first place, David, in common with the majority of Merseysiders, knew that schoolboy options are strictly limited. So he decided to support success — Liverpool instead of disappointing Everton, who, in the days of Dixie and the rest of a complete line-up of Goodison 'caps', were the fashionable outfit within shouting distance on the other side of Stanley Park.

Academy

He dreamed dreams. Just as thousands do, of course. But this one was a lucky feller. For he won a two-year club apprenticeship, then was handed a spot with The Stiffs, who were contesting the Central League title.

Another couple of years were spent in the Anfield grooming academy until last November, manager Bob Paisley, gradually emerging from the shadow of Bill Shankley, gave the youngster from the Council house estate a League debut at Middlesbro. And he was a joy to watch.

But Liverpool have always been cautious. They played their new discovery as a sub three times on the trot until he bounced back for the return fixture with Jackie Charlton's boys in March. And then, if you please, David turned it on once more, especially for those pals bunched together behind The Kop goal.

Came a string of top appearances, culminating with a vital April clash at Manchester City's headquarters where, having just previously lost the League leadership, the whole team knew it simply had to bag both points.

Tossed into the Maine Road cauldron, where the Merseysiders had succeeded only once in 20 years, and with only 12 League outings behind him, the young redhead was the Man Of The Match.

Scoring twice himself, and creating the third, he was able to enter the final hectic phase with no less than seven goals on the credit side, and more nets wide open for his subtlety.

Of course, goals have always been his business. Ever since the days of being knee high to a goalkeeper, he was getting among them. Ask scout Geoff Twentyman, and he'll admit that he first noted the wonderful finishing touch when David became top schoolboy marksman almost seven years ago.

For good measure, the boy hit another 82 in just one Sunday League season, 66 the following year, eight in one game, and has been operating that same way for Liverpool Reserves.

Paisley is making sure the head measurements stay the same for a raider he already considers one of the best in the country, but says: "The boy's so level headed praise won't change him."

And the final clue from Fairclough rather proves that opinion. Because his last word is this: "I just try to do what comes naturally, and I'm enjoying my game, and the bits of glory."

You may remember how we looked at the Boy Keegan nearly five years ago, when he'd moved from Fourth Division Scunthorpe for a £35,000 cheque, and the article was headlined: "Keegan to be great." I reckon the same attitude can be adopted with Fairclough. Don't let me down, David!

ERIC THORNTON'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

LEE . . . THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

NOW THE dust has settled, a final review of a tremendous season produces a variety of conclusions, and then spotlights two particular individuals at opposite ends of their sporting lives — Francis Lee, of Derby County, and David Fairclough, of Liverpool.

Both goalscorers. Both firm believers in unscripted flare. Both exciting to watch, especially on the ball while moving towards the target. Let's take a quick look at them, and make Frannie, the talking fisherman, the first subject.

A wise old bird who came up the hard way in the Lancashire cotton belt, Lee, one of the hardest shots football has ever known, has been looking over the right shoulder and assessing a fantastic career that embraces more than 500 League games, and 250 goals.

Believe it or not, it is now 16 years since this international star joined a professional trail that led to the summit in three distinct phases, provided almost all the available prizes on the way, and has now reached the ultimate to the everlasting sorrow of all lovers of the sport.

Thrilling

Bolton boss Bill Ridding, of the fifties, sets the start. For he was talking to me about the club's future when schoolboy Lee, from the next door township of Westhoughton, tapped on the office door to say he was going home for tea, and a spot of evening delight with rod and worms.

"There's your next big ace," said the boss. And the prophecy quickly materialised. Because from teenage days on the terraces thrilling to the ghosts of Joe Smith and Dick Pym, and the performances of Nat Lofthouse, the old Lion of Vienna, he graduated, at 15 years of age, to first team status.

Eventually, everybody began regarding the stocky blonde as a permanency around his beloved Burnden, and, certainly, the name so often appeared among match scorers that in next to no time it was a three-figure haul.

Then, down the grapevine, suddenly, came the unexpected news that Frannie wanted to spread those wings. Club officials rolled up to watch over long weeks, and there were arguments about transfer values until the 23-year-old was rather hesitatingly signed by Manchester City.

It may seem more than passing strange that there were doubters, even in the formative years, though they soon vanished as this dressing room comic put up other kinds of shows on the wide open spaces of Maine Road.

Came successive years in which the Lancastrian, whom I've always rated one of the best players this side of the last war, collected Championship and Cup medals and, at the same time, became an almost automatic England choice while developing a remarkable facility for winning and taking penalties. Eight in one season!

Francis Lee.

Joe Mercer and 'Lieutenant' Allison were delighted. Yet there was re-appraisal of the position. And to the staggered astonishment of the multitudes this owner of a cunning body swerve and magnificent acceleration, who had cost a mere £60,000 on leaving Bolton, was sold to Derby for £100,000.

City's board thought it was jolly good business — from a cash viewpoint. The County folk warmly endorsed that sentiment, though from the better angle as their new recruit slipped easily into a team that was being rebuilt by Dave Mackay, but continued living in a 360-year-old thatched roofed cottage back home.

Tarnished

Then, as 'Uncle Fred', the unpaid chauffeur, drove Frannie's silver Mercedes Benz FHL 7 on its 150-mile round trips to and from the Baseball ground, the soccer master became the idol of the car makers, and the hustin' and fishin' fraternities in the Midlands.

An unfortunate incident during a 'battle' with Leeds United rather tarnished a very fine image, though only temporarily, because, after all, this pleasant but rumbustious cavalier could never stay in a doghouse.

Now managing-director of F. H. Lee Ltd., whose paper converting factory employs nearly a hundred workers, his contributions to soccer are reflected in the local postman's extra mailbags of thanks from Dads who took their sons to see the game played with thought and skill.

He makes two important points on departing the scene. First, he's "always been lucky playing for teams which wanted to go forward", and, secondly, he's happy about the future "because there are some good kids on the horizon who could become world class."

Thanks for the memory, Frannie.

IVIC TAKES OVER AJAX

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

WHILE THE championship in Holland is no nearer being solved, with PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord waiting for their opponents to make a slip at the top of the table, the Dutch affinity for signing foreign trainers continues.

Ajax have secured the services of Tomoslav Ivic a 43-year-old Yugoslavian formerly in charge of Hajduk Split. He takes over from Rinus Michels who left to return to Spain and Barcelona after only six months in charge.

President of the club Jan Van Praag had tried unsuccessfully to persuade two English managers Dave Sexton (Q.P.R.) and Don Howe (Leeds United coach) to take over. Ivic will assume his new role from July 1.

Success for an Englishman in Holland comes with the promotion to the First Division of Haarlem who have as their trainer Barry Hughes a former West Bromwich Albion player.

ALTHOUGH ANDERLECHT finished runners-up to FC Bruges in the Belgian championship they could claim to have had just as successful a season as the winners of the League after taking the Cup Winners Cup at West Ham's expense while Bruges were beaten in the UEFA Cup Final by Liverpool.

Anderlecht took second place from RWD Molenbeek on the last day of the season after beating Waregem 2-1 while RWD could only draw goalless at Beringen.

The previous week RWD had at least ensured themselves of playing in the UEFA Cup next season by beating FC Bruges 5-3 in a match notable for the hat-trick for the winners by Jacques Teugels.

At the other end of the table La Louviere have been relegated after being found guilty of bribing players from another team. Their trainer the illustrious former international midfield player Joseph Jurion has been suspended for life and two of the players given one year suspensions. Oddly enough La Louviere won their last match after being notified of their sentence 3-2 away to Antwerp.

Also going down simply because they finished bottom and bottom but one are Racing Malines and Berchem.

WITH THE championship in Luxembourg already sewn up again Jeunesse D'Esch scarcely ended the season in a blaze of glory losing at home to middle of the table Progres Niedercorn 5-2.

It was their second successive defeat but understandably the side has eased up after clinching the title a couple of weeks previously.

Jeunesse D'Esch still have hopes of winning the double because in the Cup which has reached the quarter-final stage they meet Alliance Dudelingen who finished fourth from the bottom in the League.

PAOK SALONIKA lost only their second match in the Greek championship losing 2-1 on their own ground to Atromitos. But it had no bearing on the title which the PAOK side had clinched a week or so beforehand.

Interest in the minor placings was lost during the last few weeks of the campaign because their rivals could not either catch one or other of their opponents and have stayed in the same positions for several months.

AEK Athens are certain to finish runners-up and Olympiakos will be third ahead of their rivals Panathinaikos.

WORLD CUP DATES

EUROPE

Group 3

31.10.76 Turkey v Malta.
17.11.76 German DR v Turkey.
5.12.76 Malta v Austria.
2. 4.77 Malta v German DR.
17. 4.77 Austria v Turkey.
30. 4.77 Austria v Malta.
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR.
12.10.77 German DR v Austria.
29.10.77 German DR v Malta.
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria.
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR.
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey.

Group 4

5. 9.76 Iceland v Belgium.
8. 9.76 Iceland v Netherlands.
13.10.76 Netherlands v Northern Ireland.
10.11.76 Belgium v Northern Ireland.
26. 3.77 Belgium v Netherlands.
11. 6.77 Iceland v Northern Ireland.
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland.
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland.
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Iceland.
12.10.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands.
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium.
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium.

Group 5

8.10.76 Bulgaria v France.
17.11.76 France v Eire.
30. 3.77 Eire v France.
1. 6.77 Bulgaria v Eire.
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria.
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria.

Group 7

13.10.76 Czechoslovakia v Scotland.
17.11.76 Scotland v Wales.
30. 3.77 Wales v Czechoslovakia.
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia.
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland.
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales.

Group 8

16. 4.77 Rumania v Spain.
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia v Rumania.
26.10.77 Spain v Rumania.
13.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia.

Group 9

9.10.76 Greece v Hungary.
20. 4.77 USSR v Greece.
30. 4.77 Hungary v USSR.
10. 5.77 Greece v USSR.
18. 5.77 USSR v Hungary.
25. 5.77 Hungary v Greece.

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)

Northern Area

24, 25, 26.9.76 Canada v USA.
1, 2, 3.10.76 USA v Mexico.
11.10.76 Canada v Mexico.
15.10.76 Mexico v USA.
20.10.76 USA v Canada.
27.10.76 Mexico v Canada.

EURO CHART

Compiled by Jack Rollin

Franz Beckenbauer in action for Bayern Munich during the 1976 European Cup Final.

1976 European Cup Final: Bayern Munich 1 St. Etienne 0

Goal: Roth 57 minutes.

First half: Bayern three corners 4 mins, 17 and 30; St. Etienne three 10 mins, 15 and 27. Bayern offside twice; St Etienne nil. Bayern seven free kicks; St. Etienne nine free kicks.

Incidents near goal: 2 mins Muller goal disallowed for Bayern for offside. 33 Bathenay hit bar for St. Etienne. 36 Schwarzenbeck shot mishandled by Curkovic but retrieved by him to prevent Bayern scoring. 39 Santini hit bar for St. Etienne.

Second half: Bayern five corners 50 mins, 71, 76, 80 and 89; St. Etienne two corners 60 mins and 85. Bayern offside twice; St. Etienne nil. Bayern five free kicks; St. Etienne three free kicks.

Incidents near goal: 57 mins Roth scored from free kick for Bayern.

Total number of free kicks awarded to Bayern 12; to St. Etienne 12.

Total number of corners: Bayern eight; St. Etienne five.

Comment: Statistics can be made to prove almost anything. But a match of such importance in which only 24 free kicks were awarded for infringements falls into the category of well behaved. Territorial advantage cannot be measured by the figures quoted, though allowing the opposition to carry the ball well into your half does not constitute control of the match despite popular opinion to the contrary. St. Etienne certainly had more half chances created by themselves chiefly in the first half from centres by Sarramagna who was only included in the side because of Rocheteau's injury. And in the game's only substitution he was replaced by the less than completely fit player himself after 81 minutes.

Referee Karoly Palotai controlled the match generally well but he and more importantly one of his linesmen was caught by the quickness of Muller who scored neatly after two minutes play, but was not offside when the ball was propelled forward.

From the goal by Roth which went through the wall, too many St. Etienne players were ball watching when Beckenbauer touched the ball to the scorer. Another vital factor was the way in which Bayern distracted the opposition by allowing Durnberger to run himself into the ground in the first half and Kapellmann to do the same after the interval; tactics which might have been used by lesser teams under the guise of substitution.

EUROPEAN CUP STATISTICS

	matches	goals	spectators	average
1955-56	29	127	912,300	31,450
1956-57	44	170	1,786,000	40,590
1957-58	48	189	1,790,000	37,290
1958-59	55	199	2,010,000	36,545
1959-60	52	218	2,780,000	50,545
1960-61	51	166	1,850,000	36,274
1961-62	55	221	2,315,000	45,727
1962-63	59	214	2,158,000	36,593
1963-64	61	212	2,180,000	35,737
1964-65	62	215	2,577,000	41,564
1965-66	58	224	2,112,000	36,431
1966-67	65	211	2,248,000	34,584
1967-68	60	162	2,544,000	42,500
1968-69	52	176	2,056,000	39,540
1969-70	63	202	2,345,000	37,222
1970-71	63	210	2,124,000	33,714
1971-72	64	175	2,066,976	32,280
1972-73	58	160	1,712,277	30,000
1973-74	60	180	1,586,852	26,448
1974-75	55	174	1,380,254	25,096
1975-76	61	202	2,229,000	38,180

Real Madrid with 17 appearances in the competition have played the greatest number of matches. Their record is: Played 111, Won 65, Drawn 16, Lost 30, Goals For 285, Against 133.

Two of their players hold the individual appearance record and most goals scored in the European Cup. Francisco Gento played in 88 matches and Alfredo di Stefano scored 49 goals in 58 games.

Gerd Muller of Bayern Munich has actually scored more goals in European competition but split into the three competitions: 30 in the European Cup, 21 in the Cup Winners Cup and seven in the Fairs and UEFA Cups.

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International Post-Mortem by Eric Batty

BRITISH TITLE FOR SCOTLAND

International revue.
Yugoslavia 0 Hungary 0
East Germany 5, Algeria 0
France 2 Poland 0
Czechoslovakia 2 USSR 0
Spain 1 West Germany 1
Yugoslavia 2 Wales 0
Holland 5 Belgium 0
Austria 1 Sweden 0
Switzerland 0 Hungary 1
Greece 1 Poland 0
Scotland 3 Wales 1
Wales 0 England 1
Scotland 3 N. Ireland 0
England 4 N. Ireland 0
Wales 1 N. Ireland 0
Scotland 2 England 1

Yugoslavia 0 Hungary 0

YUGOSLAV MANAGER Ante Mladinic apparently wanted an extra work-out for his team before the vital game v. Wales and the Hungarians were eager to oblige. Over the years the Hungarians have always had the edge on Yugoslavia, but in this friendliest of friendlies, little more than a training session really, no one was pleased. Least pleased of all were the 10,000 crowd who paid to get in at Banja Luka to see a team deprived through injury of Buljan and Dzajic and finally reduced to a "home-based team" by Mladinic.

Nyilasi showed up well once more for the Hungarians, underlining the fact that if all goes well they are going to have at least one world-class player soon, but the overall impression was one of mediocrity. When it was all over, everyone must have been relieved and the crowd showed what they thought of it all by whistling both teams off the park.

Yugoslavia: Petrovic; Peruzovic (Katalinski), Hadziabdic, Jerkovic (Sijvo), Primorac, Muzinic, Vabec, Vukotic (Oblak), Acimovic (Novosalac), Vladic, Surjak

Hungary: Gujdar; Ebedli (Csongradi), Nagy III, Balint, Kantor, Rab, Nyilasi, Weimpel (Mayer), Fazekas, Pinter, Magyar

East Germany 5 Algeria 0

ALGERIA REPAID an earlier visit by the DDR but staged in Cottbus this ranked as a second-class international. Even so it allowed DDR boss Georg Buschner to introduce Peter Kotte of Dynamo Dresden on the right wing and Wilfried Grobner of Lokomotive Leipzig at right back for their first caps.

It also permitted the two most capped East Germans, Eberhard Vogel now 33 with 74 caps (maybe his last) and goalkeeper Jurgen Croy (29 and 70 caps) to boost their tallies.

As a competitive game this was a non-starter, the DDR being 2-0 up in 12 minutes through Peter Kotte and Hans-Jurgen Riediger and in the second half Herr Buschner brought on five substitutes. It was probably of real value to the Algerians, however, who get few opportunities to test themselves against European sides away from home and Rachid Mekloufi, the former St. Etienne inside right now in charge of Algeria (and his men) must have learned a lot. The other goals were scored by Heidler, Dorner and Kotte (his second in the 82nd minute).

France 2 Poland 0

UNABLE TO field St. Etienne players against Czechoslovakia, this was new manager Michel Hidalgo's first chance to turn out a team without complications and he brought in Larque, the St. Etienne captain, and Patrick Revelli as well as making other experiments.

For the Poles it was a vital game for going through a crisis period they badly needed a win to prove that their 1974 team has not been shattered irrevocably.

The Poles had to bring in a new goalkeeper for the suspended Tomaszewski but the keynote for them was the failure once more of Deyna and Kasperczak to control the midfield. This time they had a new cap, Boniek, alongside them but after this defeat their future must be considered doubtful.

In attack, Lato, Szarmach and Kmiecik, who scores goals often for Wisla Krakow, were given another run though Ruch left winger Benigier came on for the second half with Kmiecik having taken a knock.

France were generally in command and the Poles gave no hint of the high standard they reached in 1973-74. Staged at Lens, where many Frenchmen are of Polish descent, this friendly pulled in 15,000, probably more than it would have done in Paris and Pintenat and Patrick Revelli were the scorers in a comfortable win.

France: Baratelli; Domenech, Rio, Curbelio, Farison, Larque, Synaeghel, Guillou (Bouedra), Revelli P., Pintenat, Six

Poland: Burzynski; Gorgon, Szymanowski, Wawrowski, Maculewicz, Kasperczak, Deyna, Boniek, Lato, Szarmach, Kmiecik (Beniger)

Czechoslovakia 2 USSR 0

OVERCOMING A psychological disadvantage in having been held to a 2-2 draw at home to the Russians very recently, the Czechs took this game by the scruff of the neck and knocked the polished Russians off their perch. Pollack, the midfielder who wears 9, was the star of a fine hard-working performance by the Czechs and the architect behind their first goal scored by Moder. In the second half, after Panenka had put Czechoslovakia 2-0 up, the Russians tried to come out and attacked, often desperately, but made no impression on a sound Czech defence.

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Dobias, Jozef Capkovic, Ondrus, Gogh, Pollak, Moder (Knapp), Panenka, Masny, Nehoda, Petras (Kroupa)

USSR: Prochorov; Reschkov, Svigimsev, Fomenko, Lovchev (Veremejev), Konkov, Troschkin, Kolotov, Matvienko, Onischenko (Nasarenko), Blohkin

Spain 1 West Germany 1

BEATEN ON their last two visits to Spain, the West Germans had to struggle to draw in a hard-fought game at the 63,000 capacity Atletico Stadium in Madrid. Franz Beckenbauer earned his 97th cap but will have few good memories of this game having been given no end of trouble by Real Madrid's 23-year-old centre-forward Santillana.

Spain were on top for the opening period and might have had more goals to add to the one Santillana notched in the 21st minute, but Quini, the top scorer in the Spanish First Division, was generally well-held by the aggressive Dietz and with Pirri failing a fitness test, the Spanish midfield generally lacked the craft to overcome the Monchengladbach midfield trio, Wimmer, Danner and Bonhof, reinforced by Erich Beer from Hertha in a four-man midfield screen. Little was seen of the German attack, and though they start favourites for the return, the absence of Jupp Heynckes, out for the rest of the season, will be a severe handicap.

Despite Spanish pressure, the Germans were no doubt happy to be limiting the Spaniards to one goal, when, on the hour, Beer transformed the proceedings with a shot from the edge of the box that found its mark. From then on the Germans played with growing confidence and the Spaniards became both frustrated and desperate, putting on two attacking players as substitutes for the last ten minutes in a bid to get at least one goal "edge" to take with them to Munich.

Spain: Iribar; Sol, Benito, Miguel (Alabanda), Capon, Camacho, Villar, Del Bosque, Churruca, Santillan, Quini (Rojo)

West Germany: Maier; Vogts, Schwarzenbeck (Cullmann), Beckenbauer, Dietz (Reichel), Wimmer, Danner, Beer, Bonhof, Holzenbein, Worm

Holland 5 Belgium 0

RAYMOND GOETHALS, the Belgian team manager, began his long reign in 1963 with a 5-0 win over Brazil and having handed in his resignation before this — his last game — clearly intended the result to resemble the last two encounters in competitive games between the two countries: 0-0. Fielding a 1-4-3-2 formation, the Belgians' hopes of containing Holland were dashed because Johan Cruyff and Rob Rensenbrink were both in super form, indeed Cruyff turned in one of his best-ever performances for the Dutch national

Paneka scores for Czechoslovakia against USSR.

team, apparently eager for a second crack at the West Germans who beat Holland in the last World Cup Final.

A capacity crowd at the Feyenoord Stadium saw stopper Rijsbergen open the scoring on his own ground after 18 minutes and before the interval Rensenbrink had made it 2-0 with the Dutchmen clearly in command. Inspired by their "foreigners" the Dutch really poured it on and while Neeskens hammered in an 80th minute penalty, Rensenbrink completed his hat-trick with further goals in the 59th and 86th minute to produce the most unexpected scoreline at this stage of the European championship . . . and give Goethals a nasty shock to bow out with.

Holland: Schrijvers; Suurbier, Van Kraay, Rijsbergen, Krol, Neeskens (Peters), Jansen, Van der Kerkhof (W.), Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink

Belgium: Piot; Martens, Leekens, Geets, Van Binst, Cools (Vander Elst), Coeck, Verheyen, Vander Eycken, Van Gool, Lambert (Teugels)

Austria 1 Sweden 0

A GOODISH crowd of 35,000 paid for admission to the Prater Stadion in Vienna for the visit of Sweden in what was only a friendly match. However, it marked a new era with former international inside forward Helmut Senekowitsch in charge for the first time, taking over from the long-serving Czech Leopold Stastny, who gave up through ill health.

Senekowitsch chose to ignore the "foreign legion", and turned out an exclusively home-based team that did remarkably well to gain a rather rare win, for the Austrian game that is going through a critical period. After a goal-less first-half, it was former "legionaire" Hans Pirkner, currently the leading scorer in the Austrian First Division, who broke the deadlock and gave Austria a win they just about deserved.

Austria: Koncilia; Horvath, Sara, Pezzey, Strasser, Weber, Dashacher, Schwarz (W.), Oberacher, Krankl, Pirkner

Sweden: Hellstrom; Nordqvist, Andersson (B.), Karlsson, Andersen (B.), Linderoth, Fredriksson, Edstrom, Sandberg (Torstensson), Mattsson, Evesson

Switzerland 0 Hungary 1

ON THE surface it may appear that this was further proof that Lajos Baroti's team-building plans were beginning to bear fruit but in fact his new team was decimated by the Hungarian Cup Final three days later which deprived him of all the Ferencvaros players.

For this game, Baroti turned to Videoton, the surprise team of the year that recently topped Ferencvaros in the First Division and the newcomers fitted in well with the gifted veteran Fazekas.

From the Swiss viewpoint, the whole affair was a disaster, adding fuel to those critics demanding the head of their team manager Rene Hussy. The first half was particularly grim from the Swiss standpoint when their side was often jeered by the home crowd of a mere 10,000 in Lausanne and the following day one newspaper stated that Swiss football was now on a par with that in Malta and Albania.

Switzerland: Burgener; Guyot, Stohler (Trinchero), Bizzini, Fischbach, Pfister, Hasler, Botteron, Muller, Risi, Jeanneret

Hungary: Kovacs (L.); Nagy (I.) (Torok), Kereki, Kerekes, Kamor, Kovacs (J.), Fazekas, Csongrad, Majer, Kovacs (I.), Nagy (L.) (Toth A.)

Greece 1 Poland 0

KAZIMIERZ DEYNA, the most capped Pole of all time with 72 honours, appears to be on the way out after failing consistently in all this season's games. In Athens, watched by a 25,000 crowd, Poland never really looked convincing and a goal by Greek midfield star Koudas was enough to give them victory.

Seeking to solve Poland's problems Kazikierz Gorski made sweeping changes, restored Tomaszewski in goal, introduced five new caps and played Kmiecik in a midfield role. Only Lato and Cmikiewicz of the old guard retained their places and the latter was substituted late in the game but it now seems possible that those Polish critics who claimed in 1974 that they had eleven good players far above the average in Polish football were right and the way back for Gorski is going to be a long hard one.

Scotland 3 Wales 1

IF DON MASSON had been an Englishman I would have advocated playing him and it was no surprise when he had a splendid game on his debut against Wales and played a big part in Scotland's success. Wales, the only British team to reach the last eight in the European championship, were never really able to compete for the Scots new midfield trio, Masson, Bruce Rioch and Archie Gemmill, took almost immediate command and sent the play almost continuously towards the Welsh goal.

The only Welshmen to impress were goalkeeper Brian Lloyd who appears to be second choice and 34-year-old Arfon Griffiths who toiled manfully, but almost alone to combat the Scottish stranglehold on the game. It was fitting that Griffiths should take a penalty awarded to Wales — and score — even though the referee's decision was something of a mystery.

Despite their overall superiority it took Scotland almost the entire first half to take the lead. Gemmill finally broke the scoring deadlock with a pass from midfield that put Willie Pettigrew away with only one man to beat on a run down the right. Pettigrew was half-fouled but recovered to move in on goal and score from a narrow angle. Just before the interval, a free-kick on the right gave Masson the chance to flight a nice near post ball, and Rioch came between the ranks of Welsh defenders to head in, almost unattended.

Masson deserved a goal himself when, early in the second-half, the Welsh defence was cut open and from a rebound, Masson smashed the ball against the Welsh crossbar. Then came the penalty, but Wales had neither the wit nor the overall will to get back into the game and within a few minutes Scotland led 3-1 when Eddie Gray came in from the left to make contact with a cross from the right and head Scotland's third goal.

Scotland: Rough; McGrain, Forsyth, Jackson, Donachie, Rioch, Masson, Gemmill, Pettigrew, Jordan, Gray (E.)

Wales: Lloyd; Jones (D.), Jones (J.), Roberts (J.), O'Sullivan, Roberts (D.), Yorath, Griffiths, Harris (Cartwright), Curtis, James

Wales 1 N. Ireland 0

AFTER FOUR consecutive defeats, the Welshmen needed a win before the vital home game against Yugoslavia, if only to boost their morale. A poor Irish side presented them with the opportunity and despite the absence of big John Toshack, they won with a goal on the half-hour from Leighton James.

The vital move involved one of Wales' best players, little Brian Flynn, and came from a throw-in on their left wing. Flynn laid the ball back and a long ball up the middle created confusion in the Irish defence. Goalkeeper Pat Jennings started to come out, and James, nipping in, hooked the ball over the 'keeper's head with his left foot and dropped it into the net.

Only 10,000 saw the game at Swansea's Vetch Field which is traditionally an anti-climax after the serious battles with Scotland and England. Arfon Griffiths who had been omitted against England, probably played himself back into favour, yet without Toshack, and despite the promise of

● Continued overleaf

International Post-Mortem by Eric Batty

Swansea's Alan Curtis, the Welsh attack seldom really threatened to score goals against an ineffective Northen Ireland and the game was a disappointment.

Wales: Davies; Phillips, Page, Mahoney, Roberts (D.), Evans, Griffiths, Flynn, Yorath, Curtis, James

N. Ireland: Jennings; Scott, Rice (Nicholl J.), Nicholl (C.), Hunter, Clements, Hamilton, McIlroy, Spence (Morgan), Cassidy, McCreery

Scotland 2 England 1

IT IS said that many Scots would rather beat England than qualify for the World Cup and despite the general acclamation of this new Scottish team, I have a feeling they are going to get their wish.

This is not to say that Scotland did not fully deserve their victory over England, indeed the margin of their success should have been greater. The key factor, however, is relative: one must know how good England were before one can assess the true strength of the Scots.

At Hampden in "the big one" Scotland were struck by an early blow created by stopper Roy McFarland who intercepted a pass in defence, passed and ran. He got the ball back deep in the Scottish half and was forced left but turned to cross the ball for Mike Channon to race in unimpeded and head England into the lead.

From then on, the Scots began to really take command and no one caused the English more trouble than big Joe Jordan. After heading on to the top of the England bar, Jordan went up early to a left-wing corner, took gullible defenders with him and left Don Masson room to sneak in behind him and head home. At one each, Scotland should clearly have had a penalty when Ray Clemence brought down Dalglish and only the referee will ever know why it was not given.

Then with only four minutes of the second half gone, Jordan broke away down the left, crossed for Dalglish who had time to control the ball, create space round Mills and shoot, tragically for Clemence straight through his legs — critics please note that this has always been any 'keeper's most vulnerable spot.

Scotland: Rough; McGrain, Forsyth, Jackson, Donachie, Rioch, Masson, Gemmill, Dalglish, Jordan, Gray E. (Johnstone)

England: Clemence; Todd, Thompson, McFarland (Doyle), Mills, Kennedy, Keegan, Francis, Taylor, Pearson (Cherry), Channon

Wales 0 England 1

KEVIN KEEGAN had perhaps his best England game to date but apart from this and the promise of Stuart Pearson, there was little for which England could be commended. A very experimental team — after Don Revie had "begun to see daylight" in the Centenary game against Wales — proved to be a flop.

With Leighton James operating on both wings and Toshack apparently transforming the Welshmen into a side of believers, England had a real fight on their hands. Unfortunately for Wales, though Alan Curtis showed promise on the ground, he isn't yet the player Toshack needs alongside him, and the lack of a second striker must be manager Mike Smith's biggest problem.

Wales played far more neatly than England on the bone-hard pitch that shows up lack of individual skill, but after an hour in which the Welsh gave at least as good as they got

● *Continued from previous page*

England suddenly snatched a goal. Gerry Francis made the running, winning a tussle with Brian Flynn, then closing in on the Welsh penalty area he squared the ball to Peter Taylor. Given all the time in the world, presumably because the Welsh defence expected a return pass to Francis who had kept on going, Taylor controlled the ball with his left foot and had time to pick his spot, low down to Dai Davies' right hand and score what proved to be the only goal of a disappointing game.

Wales: Davies; Thomas (Jones D.), Evans, Phillips, Page, Mahoney, Yorath, Flynn, Curtis (Griffiths), Toshack, James

England: Clemence; Clement, Thompson, Greenhoff, Mills, Francis, Towers, Kennedy, Pearson, Keegan, Taylor

Scotland 3 N. Ireland 0

SCOTLAND TOOK Northern Ireland apart and with better finishing — or better luck — could have won by a bigger score. Joe Jordan hit Pat Jennings' right-hand post; Willie Pettigrew missed an open goal after Jennings had been caught by a bad bounce and in the second half, a correctly given penalty given for a foul by Jennings on Jordan was planted on a post by Rioch and finally cleared.

Scotland's new midfield trio scored two of the goals and made the third. Pettigrew and Rice both missed a cross from the left and Archie Gemmill was left with time to spare, controlling the ball and looking up to pick his spot before scoring.

Jordan made the running for the second goal, crossing from the left to Dalglish who found Masson square and his first-time shot made it 2-0. The third came from a Masson chip, Rioch ran at it, dummied and left it and Dalglish following up scored with a first-time shot.

Scotland: Rough; McGrain, Donachie, Forsyth, Jackson, Rioch (Hartford), Masson, Gemmill, Pettigrew (Johnstone), Jordan, Dalglish

N. Ireland: Jennings; Scott, Nicholl (C.), Hunter, Rice, Hamilton, Cassidy, Sharkey (McCreery), McIlroy, Morgan, Finney

England 4 N. Ireland 0

ENGLAND DID marginally better before a relatively poor 50,000 crowd at Wembley than they did against Wales, but their overall display still lacked conviction. Clearly Don Revie has high hopes of a team very much like this one but the chances are that when they are asked to prove themselves against really good continental opposition away from home, they will be found wanting.

Only half blind Ulstermen would claim that this Northern Ireland side was a team of really international level and with more than a little fortune on their side, England disposed of them comfortably. The return of Mick Channon will doubtless be put forward as the reason for England's improvement but I thought he was more than fortunate with both his goals.

He hesitated too long before scoring his second goal — and his penalty looked to me like a miskick. In fact, unless I am very much mistaken, Channon's penalty would have hit Pat Jennings in the face if the Spurs 'keeper hadn't dived before the kick was taken. At all events, if I were Revie I wouldn't trust a vital spot kick to the Southampton striker.

Midway through a largely unenterprising first half England got the break they always needed. Apparently lacking in confidence, England need goals before they begin to look even remotely like a team. In this game things broke right for after 34 minutes, Mick Mills advanced up the left, crossed and Channon got a touch to deflect the ball into the path of Gerry Francis and the England captain went round Jennings to score comfortably.

Only a minute later, Channon, fiddling out on the left, was clearly brought down by Tommy Cassidy inside the penalty area; the Irishmen conceding a needless penalty for there was no immediate danger and with more luck than judgement, as already described Channon made it 2-0.

Stuart Pearson was one of the few England players to create a good impression and he deserved to score, even though his goal was more than a bit fortunate. Ray Kennedy's shot was half-saved by Jennings and Pearson took his chance then Keegan also had a shot charged down . . . for Channon to make it 4-0.

England: Clemence; Todd, Greenhoff, Thompson, Mills, Francis, Keegan, Kennedy, Channon, Pearson, Taylor

N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Hunter, Nicholl (C.), Nelson, Hamilton, Cassidy, Clements, Spence, McCreery, McIlroy

Yugoslavia 2 Wales 0

A CLEARLY defensive line-up at the Dynamo Stadium in Zagreb with only Toshack permanently upfield gave Wales a fighting chance in the return leg, if they can find the goal punch without leaving too many gaps at the back that could be exploited by counter-attacking Yugoslavs. No doubt two goals were more than Welsh manager Mike Smith hoped to give away but the Welsh were rocked by a first-minute goal from Vukotic.

From then on it was virtually one-way traffic to the Welsh goal with Branko Oblak standing out as the key man for Yugodavia — and in the whole 90 minutes Petrovic in the Yugoslav goal had only three shots put at him in what must have been one of the easiest games he has ever played in.

Although outplayed, and almost over-run at times, the Welshmen hung on with John Mahoney having a particularly good game. Then, with little more than half an hour remaining, Oblak contrived to make an opening for Popivoda who put Yugoslavia two up and from then on, though the Yugoslavs sought more goals, bringing on Jerkovic for Vukotic at the 60th minute mark, the best they could do were near misses, leaving the issue open . . . if Wales can find the punch up front.

Yugoslavia: Petrovic; Buljan, Hadziabdic, Katalinski, Muzinic, Oblak, Acimovic, Vukotic (Jerkovic), Popivoda, Surjak, Vabec

Wales: Davies; Thomas, Page, Mahoney, Phillips, Evans, James (Curtis), Flynn, Yorath, Toshack, Griffiths

Continued next month

News from East Germany by Eric Batty

DYNAMO DRESDEN CONTINUE THEIR WINNING WAYS

THE STAR of FC Carl Zeiss Jena has waned, largely with the ageing of international centre forward Peter Ducke, though regular goals from veteran cap Eberhard Vogel kept the club up amongst the leaders for much of the season.

The biggest disappointment was the poor showing of 1st FC Magdeburg, who with young players like Axel Tyll and Martin Hoffmann and international veteran inside forwards Jurgen Sparwasser and Jurgen Pommerenke took the European Cup Winners Cup and two consecutive championships. Strengthened by the signing of a very gifted international centre forward Joachim Streich from relegated Hansa Rostock, one would have expected Magdeburg to be a real power this season.

Magdeburg did threaten at one time but the consistency they needed to retain the championship just wasn't there. In addition, both Pommerenke and Sparwasser have been out injured for long spells and Tyll has not developed as expected. Too much has been left to Hoffmann and Streich and the overall strength they once appeared to have has practically disappeared.

Carl Zeiss and Magdeburg have been two of the most dominant teams of the last decade in the East German game but so, too, has Dynamo Dresden in recent years. 1st FC Lokomotive Leipzig, who had a disastrous campaign in 1974-75 when they were almost relegated, recovered much of their aplomb this season.

Settled

The first issue to be settled in the current campaign was the destination of the FA Cup, the DFV Pokal. A crowd of 45,000 saw the final in Berlin between the Army team FC Vorwarts Frankfurt (another old top dog when known as Vorwarts Berlin) against Lokomotive Leipzig. Lokomotive started favourites, having eliminated league leaders Dynamo Dresden in the two-legged semi-finals and with their veteran inside forward Henning Frenzel apparently delighting in the big time atmosphere once more they were never in any real trouble.

Frenzel capped a long and distinguished career by scoring two good goals to put his side firmly in command and in the second half another goal from Andreas Roth put the result beyond doubt and gave Lokomotive the Cup 3-0.

Seven rounds of the league championship have been played since I last reported for WORLD SOCCER and though much has happened, Dynamo Dresden who were top at the winter break and have only been off the top for four rounds this season, have continued their winning way, almost unstoppable.

Dynamo Dresden stretched their run of three consecutive wins to four when they beat Vorwarts 3-2 in Frankfurt. Libero Hans-Jurgen Dorner chipped in one of his many vital goals and Hans-Jurgen Kreische got the winner late in the game. On the same day, Magdeburg visited Berlin where the local Dynamo team, known as BFC Dynamo Berlin, gave them a very sound beating by 4-0. Joachim Streich was amongst the scorers, unhappily contributing an own goal but the real hero of BFC was international Reinhard Lauck who scored twice.

Carl Zeiss Jena also got themselves in trouble away to middle of the table Stahl Riesa, trailing 0-3 at one time before they staged a comeback that gave them a 4-3 win. Another big event was the goal scored for Energie Cottbus, newly promoted and certain to be relegated again, by Lothar Schulz. This was Energie's first goal in ten games — and gave them a 1-1 draw at home to Chemie Leipzig.

Dynamo Berlin then had a set-back, losing 0-1 away to Wismut Aue who are very strong at home, while Magdeburg recovered somewhat, accounting for Energie by 3-0 with Streich and Hoffmann amongst the scorers. Dynamo Dresden dropped a point that day, drawing 1-1 away to Chemie Leipzig where *libero* Dorner again got the vital goal. That left Dresden at the top, four points clear of Magdeburg, five ahead of Lokomotive and Carl Zeiss and with Dynamo Berlin 5th.

BFC Dynamo Berlin then started on a run of five consecutive wins that took them zooming up into second place and now on current form it seems they will stay there to play in the UEFA Cup next season.

Hans-Jurgen Riediger, improving almost with every game, scored a hat-trick in the 4-0 win over Karl Marx Stadt. Twenty years old, he was capped earlier this season on the right wing but has since been converted to the middle. With 30 Youth caps and honours at Under 23 level Riediger is one of the DDR's big hopes for the future.

Riediger got another next time out, BFC winning 2-0 away to Halle, and in the 4th round got another hat-trick in the 6-0 drubbing of Lokomotive Leipzig. Berlin fans have more to shout about now than for several years and recent gates have topped 20,000.

Despite BFC's determined run, however, the Dresden club were in no mood to give up their claim to the championship. In a table-topping duel, Dynamo (on top) took on Magdeburg (who were then second) and won 2-0 before a 34,000 crowd with goals from Gert Heidler and Kreische.

Travelling from Dresden to Aue, Dynamo drew 0-0 away before 16,000 (the best crowd of the day) and then cantered to the title with two games to spare and a five point lead over BFC. Kreische (2) and Heidler got the goals in a 3-0 home win over Karl Marx Stadt (28,000); Hartmut Schade chipped in one of his rare goals when Dynamo needed one most to win 1-0 away to Chemie Halle and then, needing only one win from their last three games, Dynamo Dresden clinched the title in fine style.

At home to Carl Zeiss Jena who have often shattered their cup and league chances in the past, Dynamo pulled in another 34,000 crowd and made no mistake. Klaus Muller and Peter Kotte each got a goal but Hans-Jurgen Kreische, the DDR's leading scorer, chipped in with two to give Zeiss a 4-0 drubbing and win the championship trophy for Dynamo Dresden.

Peter Ducke (left) of Carl Zeiss Jena.

Classified Results

ATLANTIC CUP TOURNAMENT

April 7

PARAGUAY (1) 1 (Aquino pen.)
BRAZIL (1) 1 (Eneas)
(Also counts as 1st leg of "Osvaldo Cruz" Cup)

Paraguay: Fernandez, Solalinde, Florentin, Benitez, Insfrán, Torres, Vera, Rivera, Aquino, Diaz, Baez.
Brazil: Valdir, Nelinho, Miguel, Amaral, Marco Antonio, Zico, Chicao, Rivelinho, Gil, Eneas, Joazinho.

April 8

ARGENTINA (1) 4
(Kempes 2, Luque, Scotta)
URUGUAY (0) 1 (Pereira)
(Also counts for 1st leg of Roca Cup)

Argentina: Gatti, Carrascosa, Olguin, Killer, Passarella, Ardiles (Trobbiani), Gallego, Bochini, Houseman (Scotta), Luque, Kempes.
Uruguay: Corbo, Forlán, De los Santos, Villazán, Morales, Gimenez, Rivero (Kasasián), Pereira, Cruz, Morena, Laclau (Torres).

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina ...	3	2	0	1	8	5	*5
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Paraguay ...	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Uruguay ...	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

*one bonus point for winning by more than two goal margin

LIBERTADORES CUP
(South American Club Championship)
Group One

March 23

RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (1) 2
(Reinaldi 2)
DEP. PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (0) 1
(Nuñez)

River Plate: Fillol, Zapia, Perfumo, Artico (Pana), H. Lopez, Merlo, J. Lopez, Alonso, Gonzalez, Reinaldi, Mas (Sabella).
Dep. Portuguesa: Romero, Marin, Freddy, Marcenaro, Ochoa, Echenaussi, Diaz, Mossi (Moreno), Silva, Peralta, Nuñez (Suizza).

March 25

ESTUDIANTES LA PLATA
(Argentina) (3) 3
(Milano, Cabezas, Benito)
DEP. PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (0) 0

Estudiantes: Pezzano, Pagnanini, Rodriguez, Brown, Herrera, Requera, Pachame (Agresta), C. Lopez (Hernandez), Benito, Cabezas, Milano.
Dep. Portuguesa: Romero, Marin, Elie, Marcenaro, Ochoa, Echenaussi, Diaz, Mossi (Shisa), Silva (Moreno), Peralta, Nuñez.

March 30

ESTUDIANTES LA PLATA
(Argentina) (2) 4 (Cabezas 3, Benito)
DEP. GALICIA (Venezuela) (0) 0

Estudiantes: Pezzano (Berbieri), Pagnanini, Rodriguez, Brown, Herrera, Requera, Agresta, C. Lopez, Cabezas, Benito, Milano (Napoli).
Dep. Galicia: Jimenez, Motta, Cecilio, Watfi, Marquinha, Perez, Usache, Rivero, Gonzalez, Soto (Toro), Cassano.

April 2

RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (1) 4
(Mas, Watfi o.g., Alonso, Merlo)
DEP. GALICIA (Venezuela) (1) 1
(Soto)

River Plate: Fillol, Crespo, Perfumo, Pena, H. Lopez, J. Lopez, Merlo, Alonso, Gonzalez, Sabella, Mas.
Dep. Galicia: Gimenez, Motta, Palencoela, Watfi, Marquinha, Perez, Gonzalez (Usache), Rivero, Soto, Tiao Kele (Cassano), Toro.

April 7

DEP. PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) 3
DEP. GALICIA (Venezuela) 1
ESTUDIANTES LA PLATA
(Argentina) (0) 1 (Cabezas)
RIVER PLATE (Argentina) (0) 0

Estudiantes: Pezzano, Del Curto (Napoli), Rodriguez, Brown, Frassoldati, Agresta, Pachamé, Lopez, Benito (Milano), Cabezas, Hernandez.
River Plate: Fillol, Comelles (Zapia), Lonardi, Pena, H. Lopez, Crespo, Russo, Merlo, Gonzalez, Sabella, Bruno.

Group 1 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R. Plate (Arg)	6	5	0	1	10	3	10
Estudi. (Arg.)	6	4	1	1	11	3	9
Portug. (Ven.)	6	2	1	3	8	11	5
Galicia (Ven.)	6	0	0	6	3	15	0

Group Two

March 21

LIGA DEP. UNIVERSITARIA
(Ecuador) (1) 4 (J. Perez 4)
GUABIRA (Bolivia) (0) 0
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) (2) 3
(Martinez, Romero, Licciardi)
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (0) 1 (Gongora)

March 25

LIGA DEP. UNIVERSITARIA
(Ecuador) 2 (Tapia, De Carlos)
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) 1 (Aragones)
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) (0) 1
(Licciardi)
GUABIRA (Bolivia) 0

Cuenca: Aguirre, Barrera, Meslano, Riestra, Klinger, Gatti, Velez, Martinez (Perez), Romero, Licciardi, Castañeda.
Guabira: Cobo, Pizarro, Pedrosa, Awad, Cuna, Franco, Cerrizuela, Allodo, Garcia (Parada), Jimenez, Quevedo (Recabado).

April 4

DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) 0
LIGA DEP. UNIVERSITARIA
(Ecuador) 0
BOLIVAR (Bolivia) 7
GUABIRA (Bolivia) 1

April 11

GUABIRA (Bolivia) 0
LIGA DEP. UNIVERSITARIA
(Ecuador) 1 (Scalise pen.)
(suspended after 15 minutes — L. D. Universitaria later awarded points)

Guabira: Cobo, Cuina, Awad, Pedroza, Chavez, Franco, Cerrizuela, Llado, Recabado, Quevedo, Jimenez.
Liga D. Universitaria: Leyes, Moreno, De Carlo, Villena, Tovar, Gomez, Aguirre, Zubia, Carrera, Scalisi, Tapia.

BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (1) 4
(Gongora, Lugo pen., Mezza)
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) (0) 2
(Licciardi 2, one pen.)

Bolivar: Jimenez, Vaca, Solorzano, Troncone, Valdivieso, Araoz, Lird, Gongora, Aragones (Mezza), Diaz (Morales), Lugo.
Dep. Cuenca: Aguirre, Barrera, Riestra, Meslano, Klinger, Gatti, Velez (Martinez), Castaneda, Perez (Romero), Licciardi, Villagra.

April 14

BOLIVAR (Bolivia) (1) 3
(Lird, Aragones, Solorzano)
LIGA. DEP. UNIVERSITARIA
(Ecuador) (1) 2 (Tapia, Carrera)
GUABIRA (Bolivia) 0
DEP. CUENCA (Ecuador) 2
(Licciardi 2)

Group 2 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liga. Dep. Univer. (Ec.)	6	3	2	1	10	6	8
Dep. Cu. (Ec.)	6	3	2	1	9	6	8
Bolivar (Bol.)	6	3	0	3	16	11	6
Guabira (Bol.)	6	1	0	5	2	15	2

*Play off pending between Lig. Dep. Universitaria and Cuenca for semi-final place

Group Three

March 18

OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 2 (Diaz, Torres)
CRUZEIRO (Brazil) 2
(Jairzinho, Meneses)

March 21

INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (0) 3
(Lula 2, one pen., Figueroa)
SP. LUQUENO (Paraguay (0) 0

Internacional: Manga, Claudio, Figueroa, Herminio, Vacaria, Cacapava, Falcao, Escurinho, Valdomiro, Ramón, Lula.
Sportivo Luqueño: Arce, Peralta, Fretes, Fleitas, Rios, Senabria, Sandoval, Rivera, Nicolicchia, Giménez, Cardoso.

March 24

CRUZEIRO (Brazil) (2) 4
(Palhinha 2, Eduardo, Jairzinho)
SPORTIVO LUQUENO (Paraguay) (1) 1
(Nicolichia)

Cruzeiro: Raul, Nelinho, Morais, Darci Meneses, Vanderlei, Piazza, Ze Carlos, Eduardo, Palinha, Jairzinho, Joazinho.
Sp. Luqueño: Arce, Peralta, Fretes, Fleitas, Rios, Senabria, Haywood, Rivera, Nicolichia, Jimenez, Cardoso.

March 28

CRUZEIRO (Brazil) (1) 2
(Jairzinho, Joazinho)
INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (0) 0

Cruzeiro: Raul, Nelinho, Morais, Osiris, Vanderlei, Piazza, Ze Carlos, Eduardo (Isidoro), Jairzinho, Palinha, Joazinho.
Internacional: Manga, Claudio, Figueroa, Herminio, Vacaria, Falcao, Cacapava, Escurinho (Flavio), Valdomiro, Ramón, Lula.

OLIMPIA (Paraguay) (0) 1 (Bareiro)
SP. LUQUENO (0) 0

Olimpia: Almeida, Rivera, Alcides Sosa, Flaminio Sosa, Leon, Torres, Troche, Talavera, Isasi, Diaz, Bareiro.
Sp. Luqueño: Arce, Peralta, Fretes, Fleitas, Rios, Senabria, Sandoval, Rivera, Nicolichia, Jimenez, Cardozo.

April 4

CRUZEIRO (Brazil) (1) 4
(Jairzinho 2, Nelinho, Joazinho)
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) (1) 1
(Talavera)

Cruzeiro: Raul, Nelinho, Morais, Osires, Vanderlei, Ze Carlos, Eduardo, Roberto Batata (Ronaldo), Palhinha, Jairzinho, Joazinho.
Olimpia: Almeida, Tivera, Alcides Sosa (Spinoza), Flaminio Sosa, Perez, Torres, Troche, Talavera, Isasi, Diaz, Bareiro.

April 11

SP. LUQUENO (Paraguay) (0) 0
INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) (0) 1
(Falcao)

Sp. Luqueño: Arce, Peralta, Rios, Fleitas, Martinez, Senabria, Villalba, Rivera, Ferreira, Jimenez, Cardozo (Soto and Sosa replaced Jimenez and Sanabria).
Internacional: Manga, Waldir, Figueroa, Marinho, Vacario, Falcao, Cacapeca, Valdomiro, Ramon, Lula, Tadeo (Batista and Luis Fernandez replaced Tadeo and Ramon).

Group 3 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro (Br.)	6	5	1	0	20	9	11
Internac. (Br.)	5	3	0	2	9	7	6
Olimpia (Par.)	5	1	1	3	6	10	3
Sp. Luq. (Par.)	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

Group Four

March 25

INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE
(Colombia) 1
MILLIONARIOS (Colombia) 0
ALFONSO UGARTE PUNO (Peru) 0
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 0

Ugarte: Seminario, N. Vargas, Arrelucea, Pereira, Arias, M. Vargas, Pena, Daga, Neyra, Leyva, Ticona.
Alianza: Gonzalez Ganoza, M. Palacios, Castillo, Salguero, Duarte, Ojeda, Velasquez, A. Palacios, Lobatón, Suarez, Tardio.

April 4

ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) (2) 3
(Suarez 2, Cueto)
INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE
(Colombia) 0
ALF. UGARTE PUNO (Peru) 2
INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE
(Colombia) 1

Ugarte: Seminario, N. Vargas, Arrelucea, Pereira, Arias, Pena, Daga, Avalos, Ticona, Leyva, Neyra.
Independ. Santa Fe: L. Lopez, Rodriguez, D. Lopez, Pacheco, Bolaños, Viafara, M. Lopez, Sarnari, Pachón, Pandolfi, Cespedes.

April 14

ALF. UGARTE (Peru) 1 (Fuentes)
MILLIONARIOS (Colombia) 1 (Ortiz)

Ugarte: Seminario, N. Vargas, Arrelucea, Pereyra, Arias, M. Vargas, Viza, Fuentes, Neyra, Leyva, Ticona.
Millionarios: Ballesteros, Segovia, Soto, Rodriguez, Gaviria, Ortega, Amado, Della Savia, Ortiz, Tamayo, Converti.

April 18
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) (2) 2
(Lobaton, Ojeda)
MILLIONARIOS (Colombia) (1) 1
(Tamayo)

Alianza: Gonzalez Ganoza, M. Palacios, Castillo, Salguero, Duarte, Velazquez, Ojeda, Cueto (A. Palacios), Lobatón, Suarez, Ravello.

Millionarios: Ballesteros, Segovia, Soto, Rodriguez, Rubio, Amado, Rendon (Lopez), Della Savia, Ortiz, Tamayo, Converti.

Group 4 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Allan. L. (Pe.)	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
Million. (Co.)	6	2	2	2	8	5	6
A. U. P. (Pe.)	6	1	4	1	5	8	6
In. S. Fe (Co.)	6	1	2	3	7	11	4

Group Five

March 17
PALESTINO (Chile) (1) 1 (Fabbiani)
PENAROL (Uruguay) (0) 0

Palestino: Vidalle, Veras, Valenzuela, Campodonico, Pecoraro, Ramirez, Hidalgo, Coppa, Fabbiani, Cavallieri, Pinto (P. Vasquez replaced Coppa).

Peñarol: Corbo, Piriz, Forlán, Olivera, Faral, Acosta, Gimenez, Silva, Cruz, Morena, Gallina.

March 18
UNION ESPANOLA (Chile) (1) 2
(Gaete, Letanú)
NACIONAL (Uruguay) (0) 0

Union Española: Osben, Machuca, Herrera (Gonzalez), Soto, Escobar, Inostroza, Palacios, Gaete, Veliz (Miranda), Letanú, Pizarro.

Nacional: Bertinat, Machado, De los Santos, Villazán, Moller, Perrone, Pereira, De Luis, Muñiz (Pedetti), Callava, Ocampo.

March 24
PENAROL (Uruguay) (0) 2
(Jimenez, Forlán)
NACIONAL (Uruguay) (1) 1 (De Lima)

Peñarol: Corbo, Olivera, Forlán, Piriz, Acosta, Silva, Jimenez, Unanue, Cruz, Morena, Pizzani.

Nacional: Bertinat, De los Santos, Villazán, Machado, Pereira, Gimenez, Perrone (Pagotal), De Lima, Muñiz, Revetria (Daciau), Ocampo.

UNION ESPANOLA (Chile) (0) 1
(Gaete pen.)
PALESTINO (Chile) (0) 0

Union Española: Osban, Machuca (Gonzalez), Herrera, Soto, Escobar, Gaete, Inostroza, Palacios, Pizarro, Letanú, Veliz (Quiroz).

Palestino: Vidalle, Araneda, Pecoraro, Valenzuela, Campodonico, Coppa, Ramirez (Messen), Cavalieri, Hidalgo (Vazquez), Fabiani, Pinto.

March 31
NACIONAL (Uruguay) (1) 1
UNION ESPANOLA (Chile) (0) 1
March 30
PENAROL (Uruguay) (2) 2
(Acuña, Morena)
PALESTINO (Chile) (1) 1 (Fabbiani)

Peñarol: Mazurkiewicz, Olivera, Faral, Forlan, Acosta, Piriz, Soryez, Cruz, Jimenez, Morena, Unanue (Silva), Acuna.

Palestino: Vidalle, Canep (Hidalgo), Valenzuela, Campodonico, Pecoraro, Coffe, Vazquez, Fabbiani, Messon (Araneda), Cavalieri, Pinto.

April 3
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 1
PALESTINO (Chile) 1

April 4
PENAROL (Uruguay) (2) 2
(Unanue, Jimenez)
UNION ESPANOLA (Chile) (0) 0

Peñarol: Corbo, Gonzalez, Olivera, Piriz, Faral, Jimenez, Acosta, Cruz, Morena, Acuña, Unanue.

Union Española: Osben, Machuca, Herrera, Soto, Escobar, Inostroza, Palacios, Gaete, Quiroz, Letanú, Veliz.

Group 5 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peñarol (Ur.)	6	3	2	1	7	4	*8
U. Esp. (Ch.)	6	3	2	1	5	3	8
Palestino (Ch.)	6	2	1	3	5	6	5
Nacional (Ur.)	6	0	3	3	5	9	3

*won group on goal difference

More details next month

ARGENTINE :
Metropolitan First Division

Section A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huracan	13	10	3	0	29	10	23
Independiente	13	5	7	1	25	17	17
Boca Juniors	13	6	5	2	16	9	17
Estudiantes La P.	13	5	6	2	20	21	16
FC Oeste	13	5	4	4	23	15	14
Colon S. Fe	13	6	1	6	23	21	13
Rosario Central	13	4	4	5	22	19	12
San Telmo	13	3	4	6	17	24	10
Atlanta	13	3	3	7	10	22	9
Banfield	13	1	6	6	16	26	8
All Boys	13	1	4	8	9	26	6

Section B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gimnasia y E L P	13	7	4	2	23	16	18
San Lorenzo	13	8	2	3	23	18	18
River Plate	13	8	1	4	26	14	17
Quilmes	13	6	4	3	24	19	16
Newell's O. Boys	13	5	5	3	20	18	15
Union Santa Fe	13	5	3	5	16	12	13
Racing	13	4	3	6	26	26	11
Velez Sarsfield	13	5	1	7	15	19	11
Chacarita Juniors	13	3	3	7	17	27	9
Temperley	13	2	3	8	11	19	7
Argentinos Jnrs.	13	2	2	9	14	27	6

(Top six from each section play final round and rest play to avoid relegation of bottom team after each club has played 22 matches)

COLOMBIA :
Campeonato Iniciacion

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Junior Baranquilla	9	7	1	1	12	4	15
C. Caldas	9	5	1	3	10	9	11
Union Magdalena	10	5	1	4	11	8	11
Medellin	10	4	2	4	9	13	10
Pereira	9	3	4	2	14	11	10
Dep. Cali	8	4	1	3	13	12	9
Millionarios	9	4	1	4	16	8	9
Bucamaranga	10	3	3	4	7	10	9
America Cali	10	4	1	5	13	16	9
Nacional	9	3	2	4	11	8	8
Independi. S. Fe	7	3	2	3	5	6	7
Cucuta	8	3	1	4	7	12	7
Quindio	10	1	5	4	13	17	7
Tolima	10	2	2	6	9	14	6

BRAZIL :
Sao Paulo State League
(leading teams)

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo FC	7	6	0	1	14	4	12

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	7	6	1	0	17	3	13

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	6	3	2	1	10	7	8
Ponte Preta	6	4	0	2	7	4	8

Carioca Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	6	6	0	0	15	3	12
Vasco da Gama	6	5	0	1	12	6	10
America	6	4	2	0	17	3	10
Fluminense	5	4	0	1	8	5	8

VENEZUELA :
Copa Venezuela

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italia	5	3	2	0	12	6	8
Galicia	4	2	0	2	6	5	4
Universitario	5	2	0	3	6	10	4
Portugues	4	0	2	2	6	9	2

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
San Cristobal	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
Portuguesa	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Valencia	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

URUGUAY :
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensores	6	4	1	1	11	9	9
Danubio	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Cerro	6	4	0	2	7	4	8
Peñarol	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
Sud America	6	2	3	1	8	7	7
Liverpool	6	2	2	2	7	5	6
Rentistas	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
Huracan Buceo	6	1	3	2	8	9	5
Wanderers	6	2	1	3	5	8	5
Nacional	5	1	1	3	4	9	3
River Plate	6	0	3	3	6	11	3
Fenix	6	0	3	3	6	8	3

Relegation table (adding points obtained in 1975 and 1976): Wanderers 24, Rentistas 22, Fenix 18, Sud America (promoted this year, points count double) 14.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	36	22	8	6	81	38	52
Anderlecht	36	19	10	7	65	36	48
RWD Molenbeek	36	18	11	7	60	30	47
Lokeren	36	19	7	10	58	33	45
SV Waregem	36	16	12	8	61	39	44
Beveren-Waas	36	15	14	7	41	24	44
B. Antwerpen	36	17	9	11	59	54	41
Standard	36	15	9	12	53	46	39
Lierse SK	36	14	11	11	59	44	39
Liege	36	12	11	13	59	62	35
Antwerp	36	10	14	12	40	55	34
AS Ostende	36	10	11	15	42	61	31
CS Bruges	36	9	13	14	41	52	31
La Louvière	36	7	16	13	42	59	30
FC Malines	36	9	11	16	45	62	29
SC Charleroi	36	9	9	18	47	62	27
Beringen	36	7	13	16	27	50	27
Berchem Sport	36	5	11	20	22	57	21
Rac. Malines	36	6	8	22	27	65	20

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	28	18	7	3	69	27	43
Dinamo	28	15	5	8	56	31	35
Poli. Timisoara	28	12	8	8	43	38	32
AS Armata	28	13	4	11	36	34	30
Sportulstud.	28	11	8	9	33	33	30
SC Bacau	28	12	5	11	29	30	29
Constanta	28	11	6	1	30	27	28
Bihor	28	12	4	12	31	35	28
Arges	28	10	8	10	27	32	28
Resita	28	12	4	12	31	40	28
Poli. Iassi	28	11	5	12	40	40	27
Jiul	28	10	7	11	30	41	27
Univ. Craiova	28	9	8	11	32	30	26
Olimpia	28	10	6	12	29	46	26
Rapid	28	11	3	14	34	41	25
UT Arad	28	10	4	14	35	46	24
CFR Cluj	28	6	9	13	21	35	21
-Uni- Cluj	28	7	3	18	28	36	17

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK Saloniki	29	20	7	2	56	17	47
AEK Athens	29	18	8	3	57	16	44
Olympiakos	29	16	8	5	47	28	40
Panathinaikos	29	14	9	6	46	27	37
Iannina	29	14	6	9	38	33	34
Aris Saloniki	29	12	9	8	44	27	33
Ethnikos*	29	12	8	9	43	35	29
Iraklis	29	9	9	11	32	35	27
Atromitos*	29	8	11	10	26	33	24
Panachaiki	29	7	10	12	22	35	24
Pierikos	29	4	13	12	22	37	21
Apollon	29	6	9	14	26	43	21
Panionios	29	5	11	13	15	36	21
Kastoria	29	4	13	12	20	44	21
Panaitolikos	29	3	12	14	16	40	18
Panseraikos	29	5	7	17	21	46	17

* 3 pts deducted

● Continued overleaf

● Continued from previous page

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halmstad	6	6	1	1	11	6	9
Sundsvall IFK	6	4	1	1	9	4	9
Ham'by S'holm	6	3	2	1	7	3	8
Landskrona	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
Atvidaberg	6	3	1	2	11	7	7
Norrköping	6	3	1	2	10	7	7
Oester Växjö	6	2	3	1	9	6	7
Malmö FF	6	1	4	1	9	6	6
Kalmar	6	1	4	1	8	8	6
Oerebro	5	1	3	1	4	5	5
Djurgarden	5	1	2	2	6	9	4
AIK Stockholm	5	0	2	3	7	11	2
Elfsborg Boras	6	0	2	4	2	16	2
O'gryte G'borg	5	0	0	5	5	12	0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	28	22	4	2	69	17	48
Boavista Porto	28	19	6	3	61	22	44
Sporting	28	16	6	6	53	22	38
Belenenses	28	15	7	6	43	27	37
Porto	28	14	7	7	68	31	35
V'ria Guim's	28	13	9	6	46	26	35
Estoril-Praia	20	10	7	11	30	43	27
Vitoria Setubal	28	8	9	11	37	38	25
Braga	28	8	9	11	28	41	25
Atletico	28	8	5	15	20	47	21
Academico	28	6	8	14	28	44	20
Beira-Mar	28	6	8	14	26	43	20
Leixoes Porto	28	7	6	15	27	58	20
Tomar	28	6	6	16	27	59	18
CUF Barreiro	28	4	10	14	13	46	18
Farense	28	7	3	18	30	62	17

EAST GERMANY
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
D. Dresden	26	19	5	2	70	23	43
Berlin Dynamo	26	17	3	6	67	24	37
Magdeburg	26	15	6	5	59	33	36
Lok. Veipzig	26	13	5	8	40	34	31
Carl Zeiss Jena	26	11	7	8	50	43	29
Wismut Aue	26	9	9	8	30	35	27
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	26	8	10	8	44	36	26
Chemie Halle	26	9	7	10	37	35	25
Sachsenring	26	7	8	11	29	43	22
Stahl Riesa	26	7	7	12	35	46	21
Karl-Marx-Stadt	26	7	7	12	25	41	21
V. Frankfurt	26	8	4	14	41	57	20
Chemie Leipzig	26	4	6	16	25	62	14
Energie Cottbus	26	3	6	17	23	63	12

LUXEMBOURG
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
J'nesse d'Esch	22	14	6	2	50	24	34
Differdingen	22	12	6	4	46	24	30
Rümelingen	22	9	7	6	32	21	25
E. Ettelbrück	22	10	5	7	39	29	25
Aris Bonneweg	22	10	4	8	31	23	24
P. Niedercorn	22	9	4	9	30	37	22
Chiers Rodange	22	9	3	10	36	39	21
A. Beggen	22	6	8	8	28	29	20
A. Düdelingen	22	7	6	9	36	39	20
S. Düdelingen	22	5	8	9	27	31	18
U. L'burg	22	5	7	10	20	35	17
Fola Esch	22	2	4	16	14	58	8

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria/WAC	30	17	10	3	63	21	44
SW Innsbruck	30	16	7	7	59	31	39
Rapid	30	15	5	10	46	35	35
Austria Salzburg	30	10	11	9	37	39	31
Admira/Wacker	30	10	9	11	40	43	29
Sturm Graz	30	10	8	12	32	37	28
VOeEST Linz	30	8	9	13	32	40	25
Linzer ASK	30	8	9	13	35	46	25
Grazer AK	30	7	9	14	30	54	23
Austria K'rt	30	6	9	15	25	53	21

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Videoton	25	16	6	3	52	18	38
Ferencvaros	25	16	5	4	53	33	37
Ujpest Dozsa	25	16	4	5	64	37	36
Honved	25	12	7	6	41	26	31
Haladas	25	11	6	8	32	39	28
Vasas	25	11	4	10	47	34	26
Salgotarjan	25	7	10	8	34	38	24
MTK/VM	25	10	2	13	36	36	22
Zalaegerszeg	25	7	8	10	38	39	22
Tatabanya	25	9	4	12	35	49	22
Diosgyör	25	6	10	9	20	32	22
Raba ETO Györ	25	6	9	10	29	37	21
Bekescsaba	25	7	7	11	20	33	21
Csepel	25	6	8	11	27	42	20
Kaposvar	25	4	11	10	32	47	19
Szeged	25	3	5	17	19	55	11

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
Nice	34	15	11	8	64	39	7	48
St-Etienne	31	16	11	4	53	30	4	47
Nantes	34	14	13	7	64	40	6	47
Sochaux	34	15	12	7	54	45	5	47
Nancy	33	14	8	11	63	48	7	43
Reims	34	15	8	11	61	42	5	43
Metz	34	15	4	15	64	57	7	41
Marseille	34	19	1	14	54	50	1	40
Bastia	33	12	11	10	49	44	4	39
V'ciennes	33	11	9	13	40	46	4	35
Nimes	34	13	7	14	44	49	2	35
Lille	34	12	7	15	53	66	4	35
Lyon	33	12	6	15	50	54	4	34
Bordeaux	33	12	9	12	52	54	1	34
St-Germain	34	12	9	13	57	56	1	34
Lens	34	8	15	11	52	62	2	33
Troyes	34	8	14	12	43	51	2	32
Monaco	34	10	8	16	44	65	2	30
Strasbourg	34	8	10	16	36	52	2	28
Avignon	34	6	5	23	28	74	0	17

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKS Tychy	26	13	8	5	34	26	34
Ruch Chorzow	26	10	13	3	30	18	33
Stal Mielec	26	11	10	5	37	21	32
Widzew Lodz	26	9	12	5	30	23	30
Wisla Krakow	26	11	7	8	23	19	29
Pogon Szczecin	26	12	4	10	42	35	28
Slask Wroclaw	26	10	7	9	32	29	27
Legia	26	11	5	10	39	40	27
ROW Rybnik	26	10	6	10	25	29	26
Gornik Zabrze	26	9	6	11	32	34	24
Zagleble S.	26	9	4	13	27	34	22
Lech Poznan	26	7	8	11	28	37	22
Szombierki B.	26	8	5	13	29	35	21
Stal Rzeszow	26	7	7	12	18	29	21
Polonia Bytom	26	6	8	12	19	27	20
LKS Lodz	26	5	10	11	21	30	20

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	32	23	4	5	84	25	50
Feyenoord	32	22	6	4	79	36	50
Ajax	32	20	7	5	68	34	47
Twente E.	32	19	7	6	60	26	45
Roda JC K.	32	13	10	9	38	31	36
AZ'67 Alkmaar	32	14	8	10	45	39	36
NEC Nijmegen	32	10	15	7	38	35	35
Den Haag	32	14	6	12	61	48	34
Telstar Velsen	32	7	14	11	41	46	28
Sparta R'dam	32	7	14	11	31	40	28
De Graafschap	32	7	13	12	39	59	27
NAC Breda	32	8	10	14	25	52	26
GAE Deventer	32	6	13	13	41	56	25
Utrecht	32	8	9	15	35	56	25
EEV Eindhoven	32	7	9	16	37	62	23
Amsterdam	32	7	8	17	37	50	22
MVV Maastricht	32	8	6	18	32	60	22
Excelsior R.	32	6	5	21	21	57	17

ENGLAND
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	42	23	14	5	66	31	60
QPR	42	24	11	7	67	33	59
Manchester U.	42	23	10	10	68	42	56
Derby	42	21	11	10	75	58	53
Leeds	42	21	9	12	65	46	51
Ipswich	42	16	14	12	54	48	46
Leicester	42	13	19	10	48	51	45
Manchester City	42	16	12	15	64	46	43
Tottenham	42	14	15	13	63	63	43
Norwich	42	16	10	16	58	58	42
Everton	42	15	12	15	60	66	42
Stoke	42	15	11	16	48	50	41
Middlesbrough	42	15	10	17	46	45	40
Coventry	42	13	14	15	47	57	40
Newcastle	42	15	9	18	71	62	39
Aston Villa	42	11	17	14	51	59	39
Arsenal	42	13	10	19	47	53	36
West Ham	42	13	10	19	48	71	36
Birmingham	42	13	7	22	57	75	33
Wolverhampton	42	10	10	22	51	68	30
Burnley	42	9	10	23	43	66	28
Sheffield United	42	6	10	26	33	82	22

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levsky/Spartak	24	14	8	2	49	26	36
CSKA Sofia	23	12	7	4	43	23	31
Akademik Sofia	23	10	7	6	26	19	27
Slavia Sofia	24	9	8	7	32	28	26
Sliven	24	10	5	9	22	20	25
Lok. Plovdiv	24	8	9	7	30	29	25
Thrakia	24	7	11	6	18	20	25
Pirin	24	6	12	6	20	18	24
ESK Spartak	24	9	5	10	24	25	23
Botev Vratza	24	10	3	11	28	31	23
Lok. Sofia	24	7	8	9	26	25	22
Dunav Russe	24	8	5	11	25	33	21
Beroe	24	6	9	9	25	34	21
Minjor Pernik	24	7	7	10	21	34	21
Tscherno more	24	5	9	10	25	32	19
Spartak Pleven	24	4	5	15	26	43	13

ITALY
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torino	30	18	9	3	49	22	45
Juventus	30	18	7	5	46	26	43
Milan	30	15	8	7	42	28	38
Inter	30	14	9	7	36	28	37
Napoli	30	13	10	7	40	27	36
Cesena	30	9	14	7	39	35	32
Bologna	30	9	14	7	32	32	32
Perugia	30	10	11	9	31	34	31
Fiorentina	30	9	9	12	39	39	27
Roma	30	6	13	11	25	31	25
Verona	30	8	8	14	35	46	24
Sampdoria	30	8	8	14	21	32	24
Lazio	30	6	11	13	35	40	23
Ascoli	30	4	15	11	19	34	23
Como	30	5	11	14	28	36	21
Cagliari	30	5	9	16	25	52	19

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zürich	23	16	6	1	56	22	38
Servette	23	14	7	2	45	12	35
Grasshoppers	23	14	3	6	49	30	31
Basel	23	11	8	4	51	32	30
Young Boys	23	9	8	5	35	22	26
Lausanne	22	10	6	6	33	29	26
Neuch. Xamax	23	9	8	6	32	24	26
St. Gallen	22	7	9	6	35	32	23
Chênois	23	5	9	9	29	36	19
Sion	23	5	8	10	33	47	18
Winterthur	22	5	2	15	27	58	12
Lugano	23	3	6	14	16	35	12
Biel	23	4	3	16	21	51	11
Chaux-de-Fds	23	4	3	16	21	53	11

DEREK JOHNSTONE (Rangers) and JIM BROWN (Hearts)

World SOCCER

GORDON HILL Manchester Utd.